

The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME XXXVII NUMBER 3

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

AUGUST 2018

Highlights of the reunion will include: Garden of the Gods (top); Old Colorado City (bottom left); and the Peterson Air and Space Museum (bottom right).



September 14 - 18, 2018 | Register today!

See pages 16-19 for full registration details.

Photos: VisitCOS.com (Garden, Old Colorado City)





Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430
703-528-4058

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VISIT THE BOBA WEB SITE: www.battleofthebulge.org



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Executive Vice President:

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Vice President Chapters:

Sherry Klopp

Treasurer:

Duane R. Bruno

Recording Secretary:

Tracey Diehl

Immediate Past President and Chairman of the Board:

Alan Cunningham

BOARD MEMBERS

David Bailey, 106th InfD

Tom Burgess, 87th InfD

Tana Van Nice Black

John Mohor

Gregory Penfield

BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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Kent Menser

Treasurer and Historical

Research: John D. Bowen

PAST PRESIDENTS (VBOB)

Clyde Boden* 1981-84

Robert VanHouten* 1984-86

George Chekan* 1986-88;

2003-05

William Greenville* 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn* 1990-92

William Hemphill* 1992-93

William Tayman 1993-94

Grover Twiner* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik* 1995-97;

2005-07

George Linthicum* 1997-99

John Dunleavy* 1999-01

Louis Cunningham* 2001-03

Demetri Paris* 2007-10

David Bailey 2010-12

Douglas Dillard* 2012-14

Alan Cunningham 2014-16

* Deceased

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NOTICE: DUES NOW \$20

At our General Membership Meeting at the Annual Reunion in San Antonio, our members voted to increase our annual dues from \$15 per year to **\$20 per year**, effective as of November 1, 2017. We are no longer offering Lifetime Memberships or 4-yr discounted memberships. (Those already purchased will be honored.)

BOBA is now operating at a deficit, and we need your support to keep us going! Sign up your family and friends! See membership application on the back cover.

Memberships make great gifts! One year for just \$20!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Higgins



SUMMER IS WELL UNDERWAY, and we are enjoying the heat and sunshine which make our crops on the farm grow. In contrast, we can all imagine our Bulge veterans and how they struggled in that cold winter, and the scant food rations that they had—too often, going days with little or nothing. Thousands of civilians went without as well. K-rations are a long way from the quality of food our soldiers are supplied with today: healthier and in great supply, much to the thanks of agriculture and those who produce it. Many men were able

to stay home and help run the farms that provided those in uniform the food required. Do any of you recall parents or grandparents speaking of life on the farm? Either before the war or during the war? Not all stayed on the farm, as we know. If you can write a story about a member who farmed and submit it to *The Bulge Bugle*, please do so.

Are you interested in our upcoming Colorado Springs reunion this fall? Be sure to read the full details in the *Bugle* and get your reservations in, if you intend to join us. Last year we enjoyed San Antonio, and now on to Colorado. The wonderful BOBA members—new and old—and the events that have been planned, make it so much fun for all of us. Meeting old friends and making new ones, with lots of stories, make it such a special time. [See pages 16-19 for more info.]

Membership of our valued WWII men and women, as you know, is declining. Sadly, we know this cannot be changed. My efforts in finding new members, and identifying deceased members, often involves reading obituary articles. Many times I have contacted the family or

funeral home and, with excellent success, have signed up family as BOBA members, and have spoken at funerals and services. The joy and honor they get from this is amazing. You can read a piece in this *Bugle* from such a family. Gail Larke is one of the many who joined BOBA after her father had passed away and we met. *Please read her story about her father Charles A. Harman on page 28.*

As always, we love getting new members! Think about extended family who may like a free membership, which you could purchase as a gift.

Sadly, I must note the passing of a great BOBA friend and member Fred Gordon, who assisted in the laying of the wreath last December in Washington DC. We first met at the 60th Anniversary of the Bulge Commemoration in 2004. Fred needed a white shirt for a formal program there, and I had a spare to give him. That is what really brought us together! A strong friendship between Fred's wife and my wife soon developed, and we all made some wonderful memories together over the years. Upon our return to the US, Fred and his wife sent me a Delano, Minnesota sweatshirt. I wear it for special occasions, and cherish it. Fred would have been 100 in July. You can see him with me on the front cover of the February 2018 *Bulge Bugle*. He was thrilled with that honor.

As always, I can't thank the BOBA Board enough for all they do. While it is not perfect all the time, we get a lot accomplished at our Board meetings. Much is taken care of, business is accounted for, and our finances are strong. [See financial report on p. 6.] Tracey Diehl is one who is so dedicated to BOBA—please let her know that we all appreciate her fine work.

Take time to thank our veterans and seek new stories, which we love to share.

Enjoy each day, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Colorado.
—Gary Higgins, President and CEO, Battle of the Bulge Association

BOBA BOARD NOMINEES FOR 2019

The following 2019 slate of nominated candidates will be voted upon during the 2018 reunion in Colorado Springs, CO. We will be voting on the officers and board members listed below.

NOTE: The Immediate Past President is a Bylaws-required board position and is not part of the voting.

OFFICERS

President & CEO: Gary Higgins

Executive Vice President:

Barbara Mooneyhan

Vice President Membership:

Angela Fazio

Vice President Chapters:

Sherry Klopp

Vice President Military &

Veteran Affairs: Robert Rhodes

Treasurer: Duane R. Bruno

Recording Secretary:
*open position**

Board Member and Chaplain:

Madeleine Bryant

BOARD MEMBERS

David Bailey, 106th Inf Div

Tana Van Nice Black

Tom Burgess, 87th Inf Div

John Mohor

Immediate Past President

& Chairman of the Board:

Alan Cunningham

—Submitted by Alan Cunningham,
Nominating Committee Chair

* Nominees needed. If interested in this open position, please contact Tracey Diehl, current Recording Secretary, for a description of the Recording Secretary's duties at: 703-528-4058; tracey@battleofthebulge.org. Candidates must have good computer skills.

LETTERS TO BOBA

NO GREATER LOVE, NO GREATER FRIENDSHIP



Lou Vargo and Bob Faro

What I witnessed recently was “no greater love, no greater friendship” in action.

My wife and I went to visit our soon-to-be 100-year-old World War II friend, Lou Vargo at Country Meadows. Lou was at the desk, coat and hat on, in his wheelchair, insisting that someone take him to the funeral of his 101-year-old lifetime friend Steve Kovacs, also a World War II veteran.

Though Lou was practically begging to get to the services, approval had to be obtained. Finally, Country Meadows was able to shuttle Lou to the services and my wife and I followed, and then sat through the service at Lou’s side. We were almost unable to hold back our tears at this great love and friendship between two friends whose friendship began just after World War I. (Yes, World War One.)

Many of us might make an excuse for missing such a service, but Lou Vargo continues to teach by deed that he is in fact a man of Tom Brokaw’s “Greatest Generation!” God bless Lou. And Steve, rest in peace, knowing that Lou was there until the very end.

Bob Faro, Member

NOTE: Bob’s letter was also published in the Express-Times of Easton PA in their “Letters to the Editor.”

VBOB MONUMENT TO ARMY NURSES

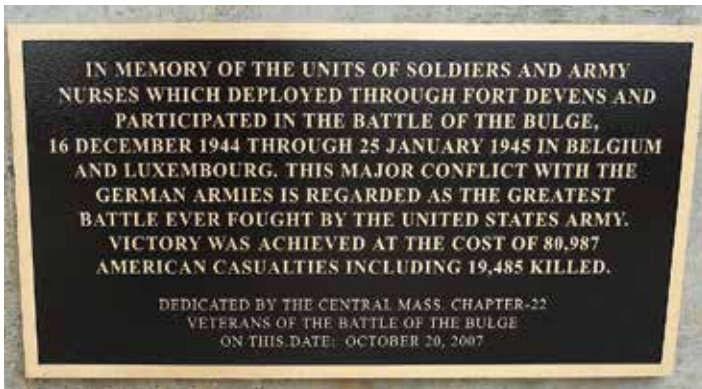
It was gratifying to see (in the February 2018 *Bulge Bugle*) the response of several chapters, with photos, of their VBOB monuments dedicated to our wonderful Veterans, including those of my chapter #22.

We also have a bronze plaque, which our Chapter members dedicated in October 2007, to honor the units of Soldiers and Army Nurses who deployed from Fort Devens, Massachusetts to overseas duty in the Bulge.

This plaque is placed at the parade ground of the former Fort Devens Army Post in Ayer, Massachusetts.

Many thanks for your continued efforts in honoring our Veterans!

John E. McAuliffe, President, Central Mass. Chapter #22



Wilbert Young and 3 “Rosies” at the Rosie Museum in Richmond, CA.

APPRECIATING THE “ROSIES”

NOTE: Veteran Member Wilbert Young copied us on this email he sent to a friend, thanking her for an article she sent him about the real Rosie the Riveters.

Thanks very much for the newspaper article reviving some histories of the “Rosie” ladies during WWII. During 1941-1942, I worked in the Puget Sound Navy shipyard, repairing ships bombed in Pearl Harbor. At this time I personally saw hundreds of “Rosies” doing jobs only men had done before. That’s why I feel the “Greatest Generation” was not only the military at this time, but also all those workers in industry, supplying materials needed for the War. In 2017, when Marilyn and I visited the Rosie Museum in Richmond, Calif., my feeling about the Greatest Generation was reinforced. During this museum visit, we heard the stories of 3 “Rosies,” which was the highlight of trip. One lady was over 90 years old! I had my picture taken with all 3. So, I did enjoy the article you sent.

Wilbert Young, 99 IINFD, 372 FABN, BTRY C

NOTE: See an article about the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park in our February 2016 issue, pg. 27.

NORTH PLATTE CANTEEN BOOK

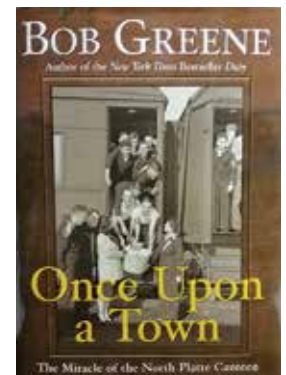
My eyes were immediately drawn to the North Platte, NE article printed in the last *Bugle* [May 2018, pg. 25]. Long ago, I purchased and read a book by Bob Greene, which I have in my library. I pulled it from the bookshelf to scan through the pages once more after reading the *Bugle*.

An in-depth narrative of what it was like at North Platte in the 40s can be found in Greene’s book, *Once Upon A Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*.

Reading about these “heroes back home” makes one long for that cohesive country we had back then, and how that stranger in uniform—who was someone’s son, brother, or husband—was much more important than those who tirelessly manned the train depot with goodies and affection.

This is good stuff for all military historians, and especially all BOBA members. It paints a magnificent picture of how the folks of North Platte loved their servicemen, and the extent of their efforts to show it.

Duane Bruno, BOBA Treasurer



BOOK REVIEW

THE NIGHTINGALE DELIVERS

by Angela M. Fazio, V.P. Membership



Looking for a very good read, a page-turner, and a fine story of historical fiction? Then may I suggest and recommend *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah. This novel has received many honors: Book Browse Fiction Award of 2015, People's Choice Award for Favorite Fiction 2015, Goodreads Best Historical Novel 2015.

"In love we find out who we want to be. In war we find out who we are." Quoting from this book, this basically sums up the extensive plot. It tells us the story of two sisters, Vianne and Isabelle, living in German-occupied France in

WWII, and the different ways they deal with the occupation. From 1939, both women struggle to survive the darkest of times in the harshest and most brutal of conditions. The novel takes us up to modern times. A fine read...I kept wanting to get back to it, and hope you'll feel the same!

Please allow me to share a quote from my dearest Mother, who started telling me this from when I was only five years old, "If you have a book in your hand, you are rich."

I hope you will consider reading this WWII story. Good reading to you!

How to submit stories for "The Bulge Bugle"

Please continue to send us your Battle of the Bulge stories. All members are reminded to submit stories about veterans you know who fought in the battle. Guidelines for submitting stories and photos are:

Stories and letters: Please send typewritten (not handwritten) text whenever possible. We reserve the right to edit for length or clarity. Clippings/articles from recent newspapers or other periodicals must contain the name & date of publication, so we can obtain reprint permission. Original stories will be given preference over reprinted articles. NOTE: We cannot reprint from books or pamphlets, unless you are the author. **Stories or clippings will not be returned, so please do not mail originals you want to keep—send legible copies.**

Photographs: Please identify the place and/or people in the photograph. Photos copied on a copy machine are not suitable for publication. Scan photographs at high-resolution (300 dpi.) **Photos will not be returned, so please do not mail valuable originals—send copies.**

Please include your e-mail address or telephone number, in case we have to contact you.

Send material to: (Preferred method) by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org, or by mail: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc; PO Box 27430; Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430

NOVEMBER ISSUE DEADLINE: Sept. 24, 2018

QUESTIONS? Please contact Tracey Diehl, 703-528-4058, or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

A salute to these individuals who joined BOBA between March 28 – June 22, 2018:

Allen, Ethan	Member
Biggio, Andrew Delrossi	Member
Coffman, Dane	Member
Cunningham, Charlotte	Member
Davis, Judith Betts	Member
Delmotte, Marie	Member
Jewell, James	Member
Keechler, Joseph	Member
Kujac, Frankie	Member
Kujac, Johnny	Member
Kujac, Robert	Member
Magliocco, Joseph	Member
Mann, James	Member
Mather, John H	Member
Molfetto, Vito	Member
Paciello, Giovanni	Member
Paciello, Lois	Member
Phillips-Page, Hylton	Member
Rieker, John	78 INFD 311 REG
Schwam, Chuck	Member
Siah, Shauna	Member
Teague III, Claude E	Member
Wilson, Tim	Member

Help spread the word about BOBA!

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. FINANCIAL REPORT • January - June 2018

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income

Donations	2,711.00
Membership Dues	5,895.00
Interest Income	562.00
Quartermaster Sales	1,142.00
Reunion Sales	2,280.00
Total Income	\$12,590.00

Expenses

Bulge Bugle Publication	10,154.74
Operations	9,270.06
Total Expenses	\$19,424.80

Net Income **-6,834.80**

ASSETS

As of 29 June 2018

Checking	6,213.78
Savings	5,103.44
Four CDs totaling	101,030.89
Grand Total Current Assets	\$112,348.11

For more information, contact BOBA Treasurer Duane Bruno by email: dubru1950@gmail.com

CERCLE D'ETUDES sur la BATAILLE des ARDENNES a.s.b.l.

GRAND-DUCHE DE LUXEMBOURG



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Responsable "The Bulge"

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Dear Veterans and Families:

November 4, 1995

Like a bad dream, the Luxembourg people remember the war years 1940-45 period. During that time our citizens suffered as never before. No generation before had been afflicted in this way. The oppressed people craved liberty and justice.

No page in history book of our tiny country has been written with so much blood. Psychological ravishments, terror by the SS, brutality by Hitler's secret police, concentration camps, prison, trials, executions by shooting, deportations into foreign countries.... It was a slavery, a real disaster during almost 5 years.

Our dead and all our sacrifices had been in vain, if not the mighty power of the United States of America had not put an end to that Nazi horror and the malicious German despotism.

American Soldiers did so in September 1944 !!

American soldiers did so in December 1944 & Jan. 1945 !!

Our first liberation by the 5th Armored Division and the 28th Infantry Division will be enshrined in our hearts for ever.

Just unforgettable when young American Soldiers appeared suddenly in our streets and narrow roads, like modern crusaders in a new holy war, driving back the German oppressors beyond our borders.

It seems like a new life had begun !!

How we enjoyed breathing liberty Air! It was just unimaginable!

We were delivered from a dictatorship who had profaned our beloved native country and had tried with a tremendous and barbarous power to efface our nationality and to rub our little country off the world map! But with their glorious victory over Germany the American Soldiers prevented them from doing so.

We, and even our new generations are not allowed to forget countless sacrifices of our American Liberators.

Even after 50 years, it is our duty and sacred obligations to thank our American Friends, especially the gallant veterans of the great U.S. Army 1944-45, from the bottom of our hearts.

It is our obligation to never forget all these American citizens in battle dresses who fought and suffered and died, so that we can live in freedom and prosperity in Europe.

We can never make up for what you Veterans have done for us a long time ago.

To all of you, dear veterans and families, I would like to express once more my deep affection and admiration on behalf of CEBA.

To you we are deeply indebted! In the centuries ahead! God Bless You and Your Families!

Camille P. Kohn, President
C.E.B.A. Luxembourg

A PIECE OF HISTORY: John McAuliffe, Chapter 22 President, sent us this copy of a 1995 letter from CEBA. It is a great document expressing the gratitude of the people of Luxembourg towards our Bulge veterans. (Handwritten notations are by John McAuliffe.)



BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW

"This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory."

—SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL,
addressing the House of Commons
following the Battle of the Bulge

It was one of America's greatest hours in the field of battle. And helped turn the tide of war.

Three powerful German armies plunged headlong into the rugged mountains and dense forests of the Ardennes determined to break the American line of defense, and trap the Allied Forces in Belgium and Luxembourg.

They met fierce opposition the minute they engaged the thinly spread American line. And paid a heavy price for every inch of ground they gained. The battle raged for three consecutive days until powerful Allied reinforcements arrived to join the fighting, and keep the Germans from breaking through.

The fighting then continued for four weeks in bitter cold and snow, and all the Germans could accomplish was to put a small bulge in the line. And at the end, the line held firm and the Germans suffered a terrible loss of men, tanks and planes.

Those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge will never forget it. On December 16, 1981, The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) was organized to make certain that it never would be forgotten. Please join us in

commemorating this courageous period in the annals of military warfare. Among our activities, we visit the Ardennes battle area on group tours; we have dedicated memorials commemorating the battle and its veterans at Arlington National Cemetery; we conduct ceremonies, reunions and other events; and publish a newsletter 4 times a year. We have also maintained contact with patriotic groups in Belgium and Luxembourg who are interested in the battle, and in the liberation of their respective countries.

In order to more accurately reflect our evolving membership, we changed our name from "Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge"

(VBOB) to "Battle of the Bulge Association" (BOBA) in 2017.

BOBA's objectives are to:

- perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved
- preserve historical data and sites
- foster international peace and goodwill
- promote friendship

BOBA is a non-profit educational organization which does not engage in any political, lobbying, or propaganda activities.

Those who were in this historical battle never forgot. Let us recall it together and make it memorable for all time. Our dues are modest, the aims are high.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

Where: The heavily-forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and Northern Luxembourg

When: Dec. 16, 1944 - Jan. 25, 1945

Who: *More than one million men*
 • 600,000 Americans (more than the combined Union/Confederate forces at Gettysburg)
 • 3 American Armies and 6 Corps (equivalent to 31 Divisions)
 • 500,000 Germans
 • 3 German Armies and 10 Corps (equivalent to 29 Divisions)

- 55,000 British
- 3 British Divisions plus contingents of Belgian, Canadian and French troops

Casualties: German - 100,000;
 American - 81,000 including 19,000 killed;
 British - 1,400 including 200 killed

Equipment: 800 tanks lost on each side;
 1,000 German aircraft

The Malmedy Massacre was the worst atrocity committed against American troops in Europe during the war.

DONATIONS

We appreciate the generous contributions received between March 28 – June 22, 2018 from the following:

Atwell, Allan	28 InfD MP
Breslend, Donald	35 InfD 137 Regt
Bruno, Duane R	Member
Champol, Harold	87 InfD 345 Regt
Cunningham, Charlotte	Member
King, William R	Member
Kizina, Charles	135 AAA Gun Bn
Liskiewicz, Michael	106 InfD Recon Tp
Joy, Marcretta	Member
Marshall, Thea	Member
Maskell, Richard	2 InfD 23 Regt

McGinnis, Donald	Member
McKinniss, Robert	Member
O'Malley, Harold	87 InfD 335 FA Bn
Otto, Merle	99 InfD 394 Regt
Pratt, Clarence	1221 QM Svc
Rhodes, Robert	Member
Schneider, Robert	11 ArmdD 151 Sig Co
Shirk, John	2 ArmdD 702 TD Bn
Staszewski, Mary	Member
Steinberg, Frank	84 InfD 333 Regt
Winters, Elaine W	Member

Donations in Memory of Mary Ann Bowen:

Barrett (Ret), Col Frederick	Donor
Brown, Joanne & James J	Donors
Goffin, Paul	21st Fusiliers, Belgium
Hamilton, Ruth	Member
Johnston, Jane	Donor
Klopp, Sherry	Member
Parkhurst, Sharon J	Donor
Rhodes, Robert	Member
Rice, Bert (& Deanna)	Member
Santagata, Dominic	5 InfD 7 EC Bn
Shehab, Alfred	38 Cav Recon Sq



MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Please notify us when you hear that any member of our organization has recently passed away, so that we may honor them in a future *Bulge Bugle*. Also, kindly notify us of any errors or omissions.

Please send notices by mail: BOBA, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430; or by phone: 703-528-4058; or by email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org.

We have been notified, as of June 22, 2018, that these BOBA Inc. members have also recently passed away:

Bowen, Mary Ann	Member	Kolpitke, Ervin	9 ArmdD 19 Tk Bn
Croner, Kenneth	84 InfD 33 Regt	Leming, Gordon	81 AAA Aw Bn
Etzel, Remo	80 InfD 317 Regt	McGolerick, Jr., John	80 InfD 317 Regt
Feierabend, Jim	75 InfD 291 Regt	Ooton, Scottie	84 InfD 333 Regt
Gilbert, Robert	2 InfD 38 Regt	Parker, John	8 USAF 457 FB Gp
Gordon, Fred	9 ArmdD, 3 ArmdD FA Bn	Penck, Raymond P	1 InfD 18 Regt
Gordon, Luther	75 InfD 290 Regt	Sarris, Louis	125 AAA Gn Bn
Heroman, William	99 InfD 393 Regt	Siverts, Hans	4 Conv Hosp
Hitchman, Leonard	USAF 405 FB Gp	Tia, Henry	75 InfD 898 FA Bn
Hope, Thomas	XIX Corps HQ	True, William	101 AbnD 506 Prch Inf
Jewett, Dean	168 Engr Cmbt Bn	Walker, Warren	75 InfD 289 Regt
Jones, Leon	116 Engr Cmbt Bn	Zack, Stanley	5 InfD 50 FA Bn
Kline, John	106 InfD 423 Regt		

R.I.P. MARY ANN BOWEN, 8 JULY 1936 - 14 MAY 2018



We are sad to announce the passing of longtime member Mary Ann Bowen, wife of John D. Bowen. The Bowens have both given selflessly of their time and energy to VBOB [now BOBA], for many, many years. They were the guiding forces—in fact, the very life-blood—of so many of the Annual Bulge Commemorations held in Washington, DC every December.

Mary Ann Dolora (McLaughlin) Bowen was born on 8 July 1936, and passed away on 14 May 2018. Mary Ann proudly served her country in the Women's Army Corps from 1954 – 1957 at Fort Benning GA headquarters. For many years, she served as national Corresponding Secretary of VBOB. She Co-chaired two VBOB Reunions as well as the Annual December Events.

This tribute came from Ralph Bozorth, past national VBOB Executive Vice President, and past Treasurer:

"One definition of eulogy is 'a few good words'. But how do you say or write, in

a few words, all the good things that Mary Ann Bowen, wife of John D. Bowen, aka 'Mrs. VBOB', did for The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge over a period in excess of 20 years?

You cannot, but suffice to say those of us who knew and worked with Mary Ann can count our blessings. She was a wonderful person who gave so much to VBOB. Throughout her years of providing service and hospitality, she truly loved the veterans and their families, and it naturally follows that the veterans thought the world of her. I was fortunate to have attended many events, and witnessed the interactions between Mary Ann and all the attendees. She never hesitated to volunteer her help.

She will be missed, and always remembered. Mary Ann, may you rest in eternal peace—you certainly earned it!"



A PEARL FOUND IN THE ARMY

by Gerald White, 2 INF, 23 REGT, CO M



It was a very tough, long basic training in the sands of Florida, very difficult for a young, dumb, skinny kid. There were lots of snakes and wild boar. In mid-November 1944, I was given a fifteen-day leave, then reported back to Fort Dix for shipment overseas. On 8 January 1945, we left New York harbor on the *Queen Elizabeth* with approximately twelve thousand troops. On the ocean trip, we had two sub alerts. We landed at Glasgow, Scotland on 13 January 1945, and were sent directly to a port in southern England for transfer

to a port in France. We were loaded on cattle cars (forty and eight) for assignment to forward units.

I was assigned to M Company of the 23rd Infantry of the Second Division on 15 January 1945 someplace in Belgium. It was very cold, with lots of snow. Sometimes there was a lot of shelling by the Germans, and many battles around the Omdemolivildengin Pass near St. Vith, Belgium as part of the Battle of the Bulge. We would cut trees down with C-4 to use for bunkers, as the ground was so frozen that we couldn't dig fox-holes. I was assigned as an ammo bearer, mostly mortars.

On 31 January, while on the Siegfried Line near Wehlerscheid, Germany, I was wounded. I was working KP, but don't remember that I had done anything wrong to have to be there! I was told to burn up some excess food. So I finished piling up the food, applied some flammable fluid to it and lit it. A tremendous blast resulted, likely because there was an undetected mine beneath where the food had been piled. I was blown away from the food pile. I suffered burns and plenty of singed hair, and was evacuated to Beaujon hospital in Paris, France. Two officers reported that I was MIA, and this was reported to my family. Ten days later I was back with the unit, but my family was never told that I had been located, leaving them in complete darkness about my status!

Our unit crossed the Ruhr River 2 February 1945 on pontoon boats, with lots of action. I rejoined my unit, and we pushed ahead. On 21 March 1945 we crossed the Rhine River five miles south of the famous Remagen Bridge. At this point we were moving fast. I received some advanced training and became a mortarman. We were on mechanized vehicles: half tracks, tanks, etc. We had a major battle outside of Leipzig. Then the tide turned, *really* turned. We took out a lot of the enemy. At one point, I looked up at an Allied bombing formation. There were so many airplanes that it looked like a big cloud passing over us. We advanced to the Mulde River where we met up with the Russians. The unit moved south to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. At this point, most of the Germans were giving up. On 8 May 1945 the war was over.

On 10 July 1945 the Division traveled by train to a port in France. On 13 July we were loaded on a ship and departed France. We arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. We were given thirty days leave, then were to report to Camp Swift, Texas. At Camp Swift the Division was to be regrouped for extensive training for assignment to an unknown location. I was home on leave on VJ Day. Happy Days! On 23 August, I reported in at Camp Swift, Texas and started advance training. The day before Thanksgiving, the complete division moved to Camp Stoneman, California by train. On Thanksgiving day, the division marched in a ticker-tape parade through San Francisco. There were very large crowds. The

next day trainloads of equipment and troops—me included—were on the way to Fort Lewis, Washington. The division received new people, as the home of the division would be at Fort Lewis. I was at Fort Lewis until 28 June 1946. A long trainload of GIs was loaded for shipment across the USA for discharge. We arrived at Fort Dix on 2 July and I was discharged on 4 July 1946. AMEN!!

I left the service and went to Morrisville College on the GI Bill. I went to work at the Seneca Army Depot as a civilian, working in the surveillance office. I became a munitions inspector, QA Specialist (QASAS), and did this for 37 years. I also served the Army in Korea as a civilian. It was while I was at Seneca that I met Pearl Johnson, the woman who became my wife. Of all the good things that happened to me while serving in or working for the Army, Pearl was the best!

I retired as a QASAS-S Chief of the Missile Branch in May 1985, at Anniston Ordnance Depot, Alabama.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT BOBA!

YOU are all our best membership advocates. When you meet someone at a military organization, or anywhere else, and get to talking about WWII, please hand them one of these promo cards so they can learn more about BOBA via our website, and encourage them to join us! We have made up these cards for you to download, print and sign your name. (They will print 10-up on a standard business card sheet such as those made by Avery.)

If you'd like to print up some sheets of cards for yourself, email Tracey Diehl, BOBA Member Services, to get a printable pdf of 10 cards.

Or, if you don't have printing capability readily available, email, write or call Tracey (contact information below) and she can mail printed ones to you.

Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
PO Box 27430
Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430
703-528-4058
email: tracey@battleofthebulge.org



You've just met _____,
a member of the Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.

Learn more about us at: www.battleofthebulge.org
Or call: 703-528-4058

THE WALLET THAT SAVED A LIFE!



Raymond Dorsey, 4 INF, 22 REGT

On August 14, 1937, Mrs. Elizabeth Dorsey gave her youngest son a leather wallet as a present on his 16th birthday. She never knew that wallet would save her son's life in WWII.

Sgt Raymond Dorsey told the story:

"I'd joined the 22nd Inf. of the 4th ID a few weeks before Christmas. We were in the Hürtgen forest of Germany during the Battle of the Bulge. There was lots of snow [*Sgt. Dorsey likes to understate things*] and so cold there's just no way to describe the cold!" [*Mr. Dorsey said that it was so cold the soldiers had to take socks and other clothing off of the dead to keep warm—those memories still haunt him.*] "If it wasn't the Germans trying to kill us, it was the weather. I fought through the Bulge until mid-January '45, when it was over. This is when the prisoners started turning themselves in – they were glad to be out of it. There were more of them than there were of us. The fighting was over and they were surrendering. By the middle of Jan '45, my outfit started to receive a lot of German prisoners. I had to search them – lined 'em up – and they all had wallets full of German money, which

was worthless. I didn't have any money. There was nothing for them to buy, nowhere they could spend it. So I traded them anything I could give them for their money. I ended up with so much of their money that my wallet was full, and I couldn't carry it in my back pocket, like normal, so I moved it to my shirt front pocket. We took artillery fire during the fighting of the Bulge and up until this time I had several close calls, yet was never hit.

We were moved to the city of Prüm, Germany around Feb 14th 1945. We were told to set up a staging area at the edge of town. The enemy was waiting for us near late evening. They were dropping shells all around us. We had to set up a command post in a house, with two medics in the basement. I was on guard duty when they dropped a shell real close. I was a little away from the house and hadn't been hit. After those shells dropped, I moved nearer the house to find some cover. I took one step into the house, and when I turned around, a shell landed right in front of me. That's when my lights went out! The fat leather wallet in my shirt pocket, now over my heart, caught the main hit of shrapnel. That wallet (full of German money which was useless,) that my mother gave me years before, saved my life. I was unconscious and the medics helped save me by stopping the bleeding. When I came to, I was on the floor of a big building, maybe an airplane hangar. The whole floor, from what I could see, was covered with soldiers like myself. Just *full* of soldiers like me. I wanted a drink of water, but they wouldn't give it to me. But they *did* give me a shot of morphine. I hadn't had a shave or bath since I'd arrived. I must have been a sight! I don't know how long I was there or where it was – they kept me knocked out. They loaded me into an ambulance, and I remember hearing them say

that we were passing the Eiffel Tower, so we must have been near Paris at this time. When I woke up next, I was clean, shaved and in a clean bed with sheets. I don't know how long I was in France. I next remember waking up in the hospital in England, and they handed me my belongings, including the wallet. It was full of American money. Someone had changed all the German money for American! I felt blessed, because there was enough money in my wallet to send \$100 to my wife (which was a lot of money in 1945,) and I kept the rest. My buddies in the hospital were the ones to point out the hole in my wallet and I realized that wallet saved my life! My right thigh was all bandaged up, and they started to unwrap it. They rolled me outside for a long way to the operating room. That's when they sewed up my leg wound and put it in a cast. When the cast was removed, my doctor came around and asked, 'How you doing today, soldier?' I said, 'Well, they just removed my cast, but I can't move my knee.' He went to the bottom of my bed, grabbed my right foot and gave it a heave – like a pistol shot, you could hear it – but after that I could bend my knee again. I can still see shrapnel in my thigh, my ankle and I've got a little in my face around my left eye."

Sgt Dorsey was never able to tell his mom that she had saved his life with that birthday gift. When he was medically fit to be sent home, his mother was terminally ill, and as Dorsey said, "I was able to see my mom just before she passed, as I'd finally been released. She was a good mother. I didn't talk about the war, never showed them wounds. It was too soon, and people didn't want to know. I still have to live with it."

28TH INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION

**September 5-9, 2018
Fort Indiantown Gap, PA**

Reunion information will be available on our website:
28thinfantrydivisionassoc.org



Contact person:

Gwenn Underwood
28th Infantry Division Association
1400 Calder Street, Building #8
Harrisburg, PA 17103-1297
Email: info@28thinfantrydivisionassoc.org
Association Office: 717-497-0765

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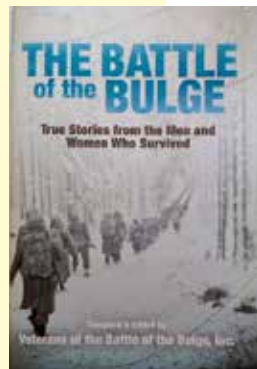
ISBN: 978-0-9910962-3-7

Title: *The Battle of the Bulge:*

True Stories From the Men and

Women Who Survived

Book is not sold by BOBA, but we receive royalties.





CHAPTERS CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY



BELGIUM CHAPTER

These two pictures were taken the 1st of June 2018, after the Memorial Day ceremony at the Bastogne Mardasson Memorial. The Belgium Chapter is still active, and always honors the bond we have with the Veterans of VBOB—BOBA now—although the 5th Battalion has become very small now. We have only 6 veterans alive, only two of whom are able to assist with ceremonies, but we are always very proud to show the flag we received at the 50th VBOB Reunion in St. Louis. —Submitted by Marcel D'Haese, Belgium Chapter President



NJ CHAPTER 56

On May 24, 2018, Thorne Middle School, Middletown Township NJ, had their annual Memorial Day Ceremony, which is held every year on the Thursday before Memorial Day. In attendance were the sisters of Medal of Honor Recipient U.S. Army Cpl Horace “Bud” Thorne, Anita Keyser & Verna Mauro, along with Thorne Principal Thomas O’Lausen, and school staff and students. Representing BOBA Fort Monmouth Chapter 56 was Faith Betz, who took the ceremonial seat next to Anita & Verna. Faith Betz and with her father, BOBA Member Robert Betz, adorned the BOBA Chapter 56 Monument with flags donated by VFW 2179. The BOBA flag flies over the school every Memorial Day weekend and Veterans Day. —Submitted by Robert Betz, Member



NEWS FROM SE FLORIDA CHAPTER 62



George Fisher, President of Chapter 62, passed along several bits of news:

- Mr. Fisher had a hip replacement, spent many weeks in rehab, and has thus been less active than his usual robust self! He says, “The tincture of time will help.”
- He sent us news clippings from a local paper, “The Condo News”, showing that he had been presented with a “Quilts of Valor” on May 25, 2018. He was also featured in an article

about the Palm Beach Memorial Park and Forgotten Soldiers Outreach’s 13th annual “A Day to Remember” Memorial Day ceremony and wreath presentation on Monday, May 28th, 2018.

ONLINE EDITION UPDATE AUGUST 6, 2018: Sadly, we were notified after the printing of this publication that George Fisher had recently passed away. He will be sorely missed by many!

SUPPORT A BOBA CHAPTER! See pages 2-3.

QUILTS OF VALOR FOR CHAPTER 22

Members of the Central Mass Chapter 22 were recently invested into the “Quilts of Valor” program at the Fort Devens Museum, Ayer, MA. on Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2018. The quilts, now numbering over 184,000, were originally made to honor the veterans of the Iraq War, and are now being given to veterans of other conflicts. The quilts are being made by women from various veterans posts. BOB veterans pictured (from left) are John McAuliffe, A. Joseph Landry, and Christian de Marcken. Joan Schwerin of the Leominster MA Veterans Post, who made these quilts, is shown with the veterans at the presentation.

—Submitted by John McAuliffe, Chapter 22 President



SC CHAPTER 7 UPDATES



The SC BOBA Chapter 7 met June 9 at Fort Jackson, SC. Seated left to right: Veterans Joe Watson, David Hubbard, Leif Maseng, Jim Hubble, and Walter Hedges. Standing, left to right: Veterans Vernon Brantley, Tom Burgess, and Gerald White. Our guest speaker, Richard Peterson, is standing at right. Mr. Peterson wears many hats, including CEO of the Lake Murray Chamber of Commerce, broadcaster, national political consultant, historian, musician, and enthusiast for all things Lake Murray. Richard spoke to the group about his father-in-law's experience during World War II in Italy—including his friendship with Audie Murphy—in the 3rd Infantry Division. Mr. Peterson was presented with a model of an M1 A3 Scout Car, made by one of our members, Mike Child.

—Submitted by Rick Hurst, Chapter 7 President



Gerald White was recently honored as “Legionnaire of the Year” by the American Legion of South Carolina. [Read about his WWII experiences on page 10.]

WE NEED YOUR CHAPTER NEWS!

Send to: tracey@battleofthebulge.org.
NEXT ISSUE (NOVEMBER) DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

THE GOLDEN LIONS OF THE ARDENNES

by Benjamin Mack-Jackson, Member



On December 16, 1944, the lives of the men serving in the 106th Infantry Division would be forever changed. That morning, the German Army launched a massive counteroffensive against the weak American positions holding the Ardennes that would become famously known as the Battle of the Bulge.

At the time of the battle, units composing the 106th were holding a front of almost 26 miles. The 1944 Army Service Manual stated that one division should be responsible for holding no more than 5 miles of front. The 106th Infantry division was spread out more than 5 times that amount. Prior to the battle, the Allies were overly confident that they could drive the Germans to Berlin by Christmas and swiftly end the war by pushing aside what they thought was a completely defeated and demoralized German army. Due to this overconfidence as well as lack of sufficient aerial reconnaissance, the Germans achieved total surprise in their enormous offensive that caught the Allies completely off guard.

One of the first units to be affected by the German attack was the 106th Infantry Division. On the morning of December 16, 1944, their 26-mile section was heavily attacked by German tanks, mortars, artillery, and Infantry. Al Sussman, a veteran of the 106th during WWII, describes the intense combat that he went through in the early hours of the battle. "We were attacked by the Germans, first by heavy artillery fire, tremendous fire. It was a deafening sound. That was the beginning. The fire was so strong that we were pinned down for several days."

The division was now engaged in heavy fighting against powerful German opposition. Since the area they covered was so broad, it was becoming increasingly difficult to get supplies to all of the positions. Robert Pope, a machine gunner in the division, recalls the small amount of ammunition available. "I had just one string of bullets; I was out in two to three minutes. We had one clip in our carbines." Trucks were sent back to retrieve more supplies and ammunition, but most never returned to the front line positions. Nearly half of the division's strength was brushed aside in the first days of the Battle of the Bulge.

Within days, the American defenses had broken and the Germans were beginning their sweep back across Western Europe. Most of the division was encircled by powerful German units and forced to surrender on the morning of December 19, 1944. Herb Sheaner, a veteran of the 106th's 422nd Infantry Regiment recalls the condition of his unit. "After days of being annihilated and surrounded, without food, possessing little or no ammunition, no medical supplies, no artillery or air support, our regiment of men had to capitulate."

WWII veteran Robert Pope also remembers the occasion vividly. "When daylight came, so did the Germans. They came down the side

of one hill and in from both ends of the valley and forced us to surrender." When the men of the 106th surrendered, the Germans gained over 6,000 prisoners of war, in what is one of the largest mass surrenders in American military history.

After being taken prisoner, the soldiers were sent to various POW camps, known as Stalags, throughout Europe. For most, they would spend the remainder of World War II in captivity, not knowing if the Allies were ever able to counterattack after the Battle of the Bulge. However, as the war drew to a close, the POWs could tell that the Deutsche Wehrmacht was finally a defeated army.

Today, there are few remaining men alive who served in the 106th Infantry Division during WWII. As the Greatest Generation slowly slips away, it is important that the memories of these brave veterans are preserved so that they can be remembered for generations to come.



75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE TOUR

Plans are underway for a Commemoration Tour of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and Luxembourg.

We do not have any details at this time, other than it would include the date of December 16, 2019.

Details will be posted in *The Bulge Bugle* and on our website [battleofthebulge.org] when we have them available. Contact information will be provided when confirmed.

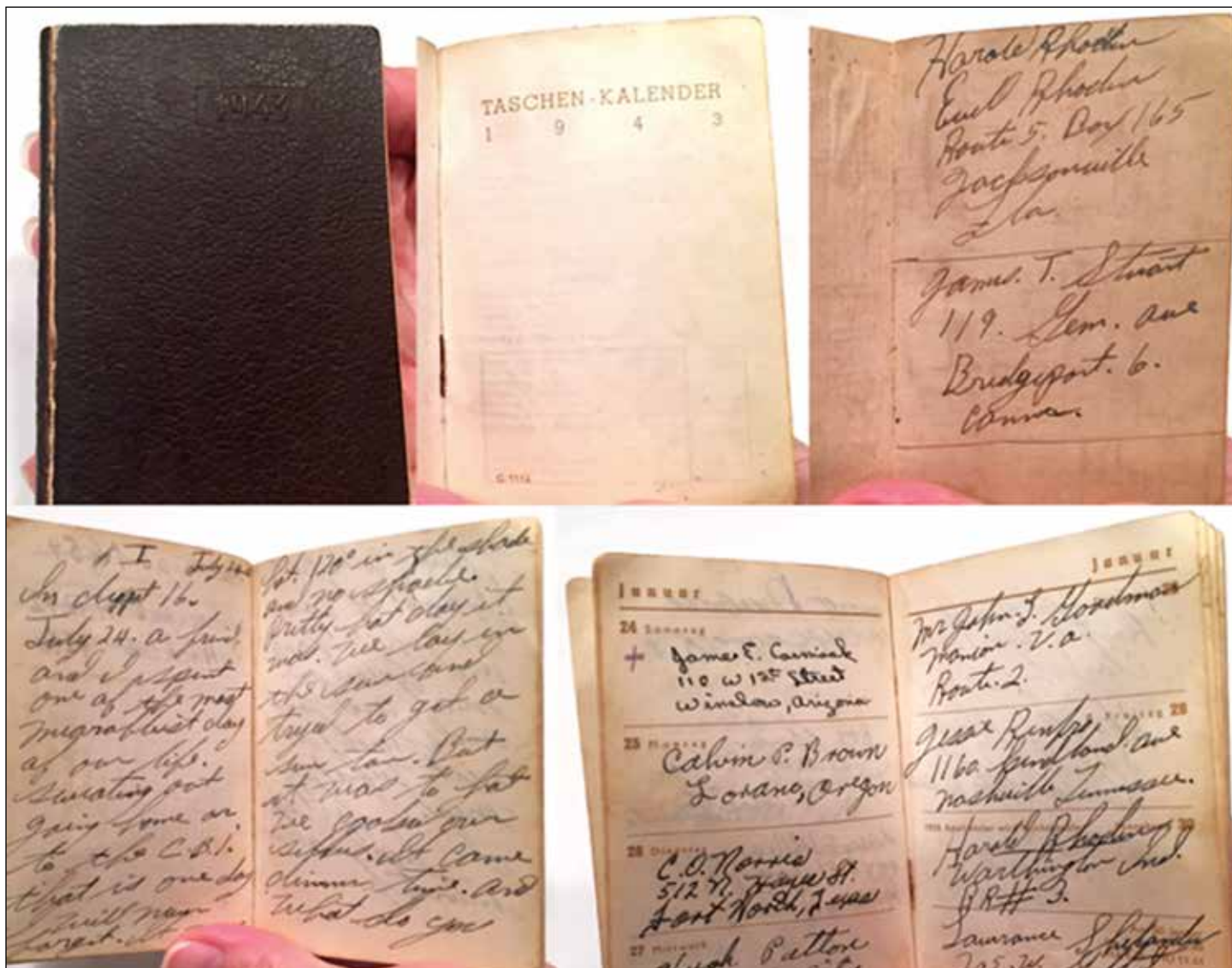


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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.battleofthebulge.org



THE CALENDAR THAT CHANGED SIDES

by Benjamin Mack-Jackson, Member



At the 2017 106th Infantry Division Reunion, I was entrusted with an incredible historical artifact by the family of WWII veteran Harold Rhoden. Harold Junior Rhoden served as a Private in the 106th Infantry Division, 424th Infantry Regiment, Company F. He enlisted in the army on November 19, 1943, in Camp Blanding, Florida.

Private Rhoden wrote his wartime thoughts, as well as the names and addresses of his buddies, in this captured German soldier's pocket calendar. The "Taschen-Kalender" was most likely taken from a German soldier by Rhoden himself. Before being used by Rhoden, a German soldier had made several entries throughout the book in purple ink, including numbers, names, and dates.

On December 16, 1944, Rhoden and the 424th Infantry Regiment were plunged into

the Battle of the Bulge, the largest and bloodiest battle fought by the United States in World War II. Private Rhoden undoubtedly saw fierce combat in late 1944 and early 1945, and this pocket calendar was with him all the way. Seeing ferocious and bloody combat for several months, Private Rhoden was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, a prestigious Army award.

On February 7, 1945, the 424th Infantry Regiment was moved to the vicinity of Hunningen, Germany to conduct defensive patrols. Eleven days after arriving in Hunningen, Private Rhoden was wounded in action, which resulted in him receiving the Purple Heart.

This pocket calendar ultimately survived the war and was brought home from Europe by Private Rhoden as a memory of his time in service. It is a true honor to be the caretaker of

this incredible piece of history for educating future generations, and I am humbled that the Rhoden family chose me to do so.



Benjamin Mack-Jackson is the 16-year-old founder of the non-profit organization WWII Veterans History Project (WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com). Throughout the past three years he has interviewed over 50 WWII veterans and created the Traveling Museum of WWII, a mobile history display using artifacts donated by veterans and their families. He has spoken to thousands of people of all ages about the importance of history and remembering the past.



WELCOME TO COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION 37th ANNUAL REUNION

September 14 – 18, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

This year's reunion has an Army Air Corps and Air Force focus.

Health Warning for Colorado Springs and the local area: *Colorado Springs is over 6,000 feet above sea level and very dry. The Air Force Academy is over 7,000 feet. It is very easy to become dehydrated, and that can lead to altitude sickness. It is very important that you are fully-hydrated before arriving in CO, and that you drink plenty of water, for the entire time you are at the reunion, to avoid health problems.*

REGISTRATION FEE: All attendees must pay the registration fee (see Registration Form). The fee covers the expenses of name tags, programs, table decorations, hospitality room, etc.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Registration opens, and evening Complimentary Wine and Cheese Reception.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

After enjoying your free breakfast at the hotel, join us for a bus tour to the **Garden of the Gods** (www.gardenofgods.com/). Garden of the Gods Park is a registered National Natural Landmark. Imagine dramatic views, 300' towering sandstone rock formations against a backdrop of snow-capped Pikes Peak and brilliant blue skies. Learn how the amazing red rocks got there with the NEW Geo-Trekker theater experience, shown every 20 minutes. Afterwards, we'll take the bus through the park with a professional guide to see the rock formations up-close, then stopping at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. After shopping, we will finish back at the Visitor Center for lunch and a 20-minute American Indian Dance performance.



Garden of the Gods Trading Post



National Museum of World War II Aviation

In the afternoon, we will go to the **National Museum of World War II Aviation** for a guided tour of working World War II aircraft (www.worldwariiaviation.org). This is the only museum in the world to focus exclusively on the unique story of the role of aviation in World War II.

After our visit to the museum, we will be stopping at the **Veterans Memorial** to enjoy the monuments to the 71st Infantry Division, the 89th Infantry Division, and the MIA/POW monument, as well as others. While there, we will be laying a wreath at the memorial in honor of all Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

A Southern dinner at the **American Legion Post 209**, with entertainment provided by a DJ from the BOBA Rocky Mountain Chapter (39), will cap off the evening.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

After enjoying your free breakfast at the hotel, please attend the **Membership Meeting** to discuss important issues and vote on the slate of BOBA Board officers for the next governing year. *(The President will receive nominations from the floor. Be sure to have the person's permission and willingness to serve, as well as 5 seconds to the nomination.)* We will also be deciding on the location for the next reunion, so be thinking about that. Many have expressed a desire to go back to the East Coast. (Virginia Beach has been suggested, with a Navy theme).

We will end the day with our **Annual Banquet**. All veterans and families are invited to dress for the banquet and have their picture taken at 1745, before the reception (with cash bar). The banquet will follow in the ballroom.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

After breakfast at the hotel, we will be going to the **Olympic Training Center** for a tour of the facilities (www.teamusa.org/about-the-usoc/olympic-training-centers/csotc/about).

The U.S. Olympic Complex in Colorado Springs is the flagship training center for the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Olympic Training Center programs. USA Swimming and USA Shooting have their national headquarters at the complex. After the Training Center, we will be swinging by the hotel before going to **Famous Dave's BBQ** for lunch on the way to the **U.S. Air Force Academy** (www.academyadmissions.com/visit-the-academy/).

We will be stopping at the visitor center, and watch a 14-minute movie in the theater highlighting the academy experience. The exhibit area features displays on history and cadet life, with specially designed exhibits to explain the academy's four "pillars of excellence."

After the visitor center, we will be going to the Chapel to see this iconic landmark. After our tour of the Air Force Academy, we will be returning to the hotel for dinner on your own, or join us in the hospitality room for pizza.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

The day starts with a tour of the **Peterson Air and Space Museum** at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado's oldest aviation museum (www.petemuseum.org). From the barnstormer beginnings in the Roaring Twenties, through the daring exploits of our World War II pilots and into the modern space era, the exhibits are sure to capture your attention.

After the tour of the museum, we will be going to **Old Colorado City** (www.shopold-coloradocity.com), the original capital of the Colorado Territory. This Historic District maintains its 19th-century "Wild West" feel, but the area's buildings now house locally-owned art galleries, quaint shops and mom-and-pop restaurants. Enjoy dinner on your own, either at the hotel or by using the hotel shuttle to go to a local restaurant.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

After breakfast at the hotel, stay for additional days to see the rest of the Colorado Springs area, or depart for a safe trip home.

BOBA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR REUNION: **SEPTEMBER 1, 2018**

There are two options for registering for the reunion: Complete this form OR register online at www.battleofthebulge.org (Click on the “Attend Reunion” and complete the Registration Form.) Registration for the Reunion must be received no later than **September 1, 2018**. There is no penalty for canceling up to the day of arrival. Go to page 19 for the hotel registration information (Hotel reservation cut-off is **August 14, 2018**; cancellations must be made 48 hours before arrival date.)

BOBA registration desk at the hotel (in the Eagle’s Nest) will be open on Friday, September 14 from 12 pm – 6 pm and on Saturday, September 15, from 8 am – 5 pm. NOTE: Birth dates and residency (country) required for entrance to military bases for all attendees.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Birth Date _____

Email _____

Division, Regiments, etc _____

Check box if not a U.S. resident ☐ Signature _____

Guest(s) names, birthdates and residency (country, if not U.S.) *(please print)* _____

Check here if you need a wheelchair ☐ Check here if you will be using your own wheelchair ☐ If so, is it motorized? ☐ yes ☐ no

IMPORTANT: Please indicate No. of Persons attending *free* events as well!

Registration Fee *(all attendees must pay the Registration Fee)*

	No. of Persons	Cost per Person	Total Cost
Adult (21 and Over)	_____	\$50	_____
Child (20 and Under)	_____	\$25	_____
Late registration fee after September 1 - add \$20 per person	_____	\$20	_____

Friday, September 14, 2018

Evening Wine & Cheese reception in the Hospitality Room _____ free

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Morning Guided Bus Tour of the Garden of the Gods with movie, Indian dance show and lunch <i>(choose entrées)</i>	Turkey and Cheddar	_____	\$55	_____
	Vegetarian	_____	\$55	_____
	Vegan	_____	\$55	_____
	Gluten Free	_____	\$58	_____

Afternoon Bus trip to National Museum of World War II Aviation and Dinner at American Legion Post 209	WWII Vet: Chicken-Fried Steak	_____	\$35	_____
	WWII Vet: Chicken Strips	_____	\$35	_____
	Non-WWII Vet: Chicken-Fried Steak	_____	\$45	_____
	Non-WWII Vet: Chicken Strips	_____	\$45	_____

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Reception			cash bar	
Banquet <i>(choose entrées)</i>	Chicken Mediterranean	_____	\$50	_____
	Roast Prime Rib of Beef	_____	\$50	_____

Monday, September 17, 2018

Morning Bus Visit to U.S. Olympic Complex	_____	\$25	_____
Lunch at Famous Dave’s BBQ and afternoon at the Air Force Academy	_____	\$30	_____

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Bus visit to the Peterson Air and Space Museum with stop at Old Colorado City	_____	\$25	_____
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TOTAL _____

Mail this form and check (payable to BOBA) to: Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118
Or, to pay with a credit card, register online at www.battleofthebulge.org, click on “Attend Reunion”



2018 BOBA REUNION COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

SEPTEMBER 14 – 18, 2018

REUNION PROGRAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Registration open
12:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Eagle's Nest)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Wine and Cheese Reception in the Hospitality Room
	Dinner on your own

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Registration open
8:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Eagle's Nest)
8:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Bus trip with narrated tour of the Garden of the Gods with movie, shopping at the Trading Post, lunch, and Indian Dance performance
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Bus returns to hotel for those who do not want to go on the afternoon and evening tour and to pick-up those who chose to not go on the morning tour
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Bus trip to National Museum of World War II Aviation
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Stop at the Veterans Memorial to lay a wreath
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	American Legion Post 209 for drinks, dinner, and music

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

6:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
8:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Eagle's Nest)
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Membership Meeting (Rockrimmon 3 & 4)
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Free time to rest, shop, and eat—hotel shuttle available
5:45 PM	Photograph of Veterans and families* (between Ballroom and Eagle's Nest)
	<i>*2nd/3rd Generations: Please bring an 8 x 10" photo of your veteran if they aren't present</i>
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Reception (cash bar)
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Banquet at hotel (Ballroom)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
8:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Eagle's Nest)
9:15 AM	Bus Departs for Olympic Complex
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Tour of the U.S. Olympic Training Center
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Return to hotel
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch at Famous Dave's BBQ
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Tour of the U.S. Air Force Academy including the Visitor Center and Chapel
6:00 PM	Pizza in the Hospitality Room (donations to pay for the pizzas)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
8:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room open (Rockrimmon 3 & 4)
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Bus Departs for tour of the Peterson Air and Space Museum
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Bus goes to Old Colorado City
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	Bus returns to Hotel
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Bus picks-up at Old Colorado City and returns to the hotel
6:00 PM	Dinner on your own

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

6:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Complimentary Breakfast for 2 in the restaurant (adjacent to the lobby)
	Depart or stay longer and enjoy beautiful Colorado Springs

See Highlights and Schedule Information on page 16 for more details.



COLORADO SPRINGS MARRIOTT

5580 Tech Center Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919
Website: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cosmc-colorado-springs-marriott/
Phones: Local 1-719-260-1800;
Toll Free 1-800-932-2151
Direct Line to the group housing coordinator: 1-719-268-4218

RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR GROUP RATE OF \$129 PLUS TAXES: **Tuesday, August 14, 2018**

Hotel Information

Located near Pikes Peak, the Colorado Springs Marriott makes a perfect home base for excursions to places such as Garden of the Gods and Cave of the Winds. When it's time to enjoy the great indoors, there is easy access to all the shops and art galleries in downtown Colorado Springs. After a day of exploration, take time to unwind in the comfortable and contemporary rooms and suites. Feel free to connect to the complimentary Wi-Fi to stay in touch with loved ones. In the morning, fuel up at our all-day restaurant, featuring a stylish outdoor patio with fire pits and breathtaking mountain views. During downtime, keep your exercise routine intact at the fitness center and pools.

ROOM RATE: \$129 single/double occupancy, plus state and local taxes (current 10.25%).

Our group rate is available for up to 3 nights prior to our Reunion and 3 nights following subject to availability. If you want to extend your stay in beautiful Colorado Springs, please book your rooms early.

This hotel has 309 luxurious rooms and suites (all renovated this year) but only 12 handicapped accessible rooms. Approximately 70% of the rooms have a Pikes Peak view. If you need an ADA room, please book early. You can cancel without penalty up to 48 hours before your scheduled arrival.

RESERVATIONS

Individuals must make their own reservation by calling Marriott central reservations at 1 800-932-2151 or through the group housing coordinator directly at 1-719-268-4218 and mention that you are attending the Bulge Association (BOBA) 2018 Reunion. You must provide a major credit card to guarantee rooms. To reserve your hotel room online, go to our website: battleofthebulge.org. Then go to "Attend Reunion" page, and find "To reserve your hotel room online, click here: Book your group rate for Battle of the Bulge Association (BOBA) 2018 Reunion."

HOTEL AMENITIES

- Complimentary shuttle service to shopping and restaurants within 5 miles of the hotel. *NOTE: The hotel does not provide shuttle service to/from the airports.*
- Complimentary buffet breakfast for 2 people
- Complimentary self-parking
- 24-hour room service

- Complimentary wireless Internet access in all guest rooms and the hotel lobby area
- State of the art fitness facility open 0500 – 2300 daily
- Indoor and Outdoor pools & whirlpools with views of the mountains open 0630 - 2300
- 24-hour business center
- Gift shop/ATM
- Pets welcome. Contact hotel for details.
- Laundry on-site, coin operated

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

From the Colorado Springs Airport (COS):

Airport Phone: +1 719-550-1972

Hotel direction: 16 miles NW

This hotel does not provide airport shuttle service.

- Alternate transportation: Meet & Greet Colorado Springs-fee: \$50 (one way); reservation required
- Estimated taxi fare: \$50 (one way)

Start on E. Drennan Rd. Turn right on S. Powers Blvd. Turn left on E. Fountain Blvd. Merge onto I-25 North toward Denver/Manitou Springs. Take the Rockrimmon Exit, number 148. Make a left at the stop light at the bottom of the exit, onto Rockrimmon Blvd. Make a left on Tech Center Drive, immediately after passing a gas station. The hotel driveway will be on the right.

From the Denver International Airport (DEN):

Airport Phone: +1 800-247-2336

Hotel direction: 81 miles SW

This hotel does not provide airport shuttle service.

- Alternate transportation: Meet & Greet Colorado Springs-fee: \$180 (one way); reservation required
- Estimated taxi fare: \$192.30 (one way)

Start out going north on Pena Blvd. Take the E-470 tollway South/E-470 S. exit 6A toward I-70. Merge onto E-470 S. (Portions toll). Take the I-25 exit 1A toward Colorado Springs/Denver. Merge onto I-25 S. via the exit on the left toward Colorado Springs. Take the Rockrimmon Road exit, number 148. Go straight at the light, then make a right on Rockrimmon Blvd. Turn left on Tech Center drive, immediately after passing a gas station. The hotel driveway will be on the right at 5580 Tech Center Drive.

WADING ENDLESSLY THROUGH MUD AND SNOW

By Carl Hall, 99th INFD, 395th Inf. Regt., Co. C, HQ Co. 1st Bn



It was a cold six hours that we spent on the pier at Southampton, and to many of us it seemed like we had been there a week. Just before noon we boarded the *Queen Emma* for our trip across the channel. Most of us slept in hammocks for the first time in our lives that night. We were all worried about falling out, but I guess we were so close together that we couldn't have turned over if we tried.

Those of us who didn't get to see the results of the blitz in London got our first glimpse of the destruction brought by war when we sailed into Le Havre, France. There wasn't a building left untouched. We landed on small boats and made our way through the rubble of the harbor to the trucks that were waiting. That night we travelled in convoy to La Feuillie, where we went into a bivouac area. We stayed there one night and on Nov. 5th (1944) at 0600 we entrucked again and travelled 256 miles to Aubel, Belgium. In a woods just outside of Aubel, we set up a bivouac area.

On Nov. 9th, we again entrucked for the ride that brought us to Elsenborn, and the front lines. It was a miserable day, and before it was finished we found ourselves walking around in a foot of snow. It was the truck ride and the next few days without overshoes that gave many of us a headstart for a bad case of trench foot. As time went on, we came to find out that trench foot and frostbite were going to give us more trouble than the Jerries. On Nov. 9th we relieved the 102nd Cavalry and took up a defensive position in the snow-covered foxholes of Elsenborn. We were on line now and there was an enemy to our front who would kill us all at their first opportunity. Yet the snow seemed so clean and the woods so quiet and beautiful that it was hard to believe at first.

It became a reality, however, on Nov. 11th, Armistice Day, when a recon patrol of 13 men and one officer made contact with the enemy a few hundred yards beyond our positions. In the firefight that followed, 12 of the enemy were killed or wounded and our patrol returned unharmed. The patrol was the first unit in the division to make contact with the enemy, and they were personally commended a few days later by Maj. Gen. Lauer and Col. McKinnsey.

We did a lot of patrolling while we were dug in this defensive position, and only through the good leadership of the officers and non-coms and by the expert soldiering of the men were our casualties kept so low.

The 393rd relieved us on Dec. 11th. We withdrew to an assembly area and on the following day we jumped off into the attack. For the first few days the going was exceptionally rough. In the first day A Co. was in battalion reserve. The battalion advance was made through heavy woods that were littered with fallen trees. The area had been pounded with artillery fire many times when C Co. was giving support to our patrols, and the trees were twisted in every direction. The weather was cold, the terrain was rough, and the ground was covered with a heavy blanket of snow. On "Purple Heart Hill" the artillery fire was extremely intense. At this time, we had no roads up to us and the ammo and rations had to be forwarded by carrying parties.

It has been said that the people who have never been over there and actually been in combat can't begin to imagine what it was really like. Such a remark is truly an understatement. Probably it is because there hasn't been a person yet who could write an article and really portray the scenes as they actually happen.

We can say that there was snow on the ground, but we can't visualize men with wet, cold, swollen feet trudging through the snow-covered woods, expecting any minute to be shot at and maybe killed. We can say that the hill was steep, but we can't imagine men climbing almost straight up. Wiremen struggling along with rolls of wire, taking one step forward and sliding a half step back. Medics carrying dead and wounded on stretchers, and taking hours to go up or down over the snow-covered hills. Many a wounded man has died because the terrain was so rough that an ambulance couldn't get to him to evacuate him immediately.

We can say we crossed a small stream, but we can't imagine how cold it was for the men who waded through the cold water up to their waist, and then shivered and froze the next few days because there were no dry socks or clothes for them to change into. They say in the papers that the action on a certain front was confined to patrols, but they don't add that half of the outfit were on patrols, and their buddies were sweating out whether they would get back or not. The records read that we withdrew seven miles, but they don't say that it was at night, in pitch blackness and that the men were stumbling and falling every few steps, and that the fellows hadn't slept in 24 hours or eaten in just as long. It doesn't tell about the big fellow who says he can't go another step and then looks around and wonders what is keeping the little fellow next to him from falling out. It says seven miles, but it doesn't mention about going cross country, being lost and wading in mud another five miles, or about receiving an inaccurate order and adding another extra three miles more. All those things were omitted, because it is hard to write them and write the truth.

At 0600 on Dec. 17th word came down to prepare to move out. There were many rumors around about a counter-attack that had not been stopped yet. As time went on, we found out that this unchecked counter-attack in reality was the famous Von R. winter offensive, or as it was later called, "The Bulge". The breakthrough came all along the 99th and 106th division sectors on our right flank. It left us sticking out into Jerryland like a sore thumb, and we were ordered to withdraw before we were cut off. Our next few days were to show us some of the roughest going that we experienced in the entire winter campaign.

The snow was knee deep, all the men were wearing overcoats, overshoes, three or four sets of clothing, and they were carrying two bandolier of ammo, two hand grenades, and full field rolls. At about 1000 we started our withdrawal. It was very orderly when we first started out, but as we went up and down one hill after another, the men became tired and began to lag. The men carrying the machine guns, mortars, flamethrowers and those carrying ammunition began to drop back. The equipment began to get awfully heavy and the men started leaving it along the way. Bed rolls and overcoats were the first things that were discarded, and then some of the men ditched their overshoes. We couldn't throw away any rations because we didn't have any. For two days and nights we walked. The first day and most of that night, we withdrew from Hellenenthal to Rokerath.

The men were dead on their feet. You heard no bitching, though, nor any of the usual bellyaching. You could have fallen out any time you cared to, but there were no medics behind you to pick you up -- just Jerries. It is really amazing what a man can do when all his energy is gone. He can still go a long way on "guts", and that is what we were travelling on then. We ate what we could pick up along the road. K ration crackers that had been thrown away and trampled on by those who had left before us all tasted good. We passed near an old kitchen dump, and if there was

any food at all that looked edible, we picked it up. In one dump, a dog beat me to some hotcakes that were sitting on top of the garbage. Whenever we stopped for a few minute break, we looked in all the foxholes along the way and picked up whatever we could find to eat. All during the retreat we had no water, and water was obtained from the most unhealthful places. Halazone tablets were used to purify the water. I imagine that all this sounds a bit fantastic to some people, but nevertheless it is true. It doesn't compare, however, with what the men went through who were withdrawing and fighting at the same time.

On the second day, we withdrew another five miles to the outskirts of Elsenborn. It was then we learned that the Jerries had cut our communications and had given us the order to retreat. When this information was received, we turned and traced our steps that night to within a few hundred yards of where we had been that morning. Towards mid-day we ran into sniper fire, but it was soon silenced. We moved again, this time to within sight of our former positions before we jumped off. That night at about 1800 we started out cross country back to Elsenborn. It was the last leg of our rearward journey but at the time we didn't know it.

The 1st platoon of A Co. was the point for the battalion, and as we withdrew, we passed a few engineers and a couple of tanks. The tanks were to protect our rear and the engineers were laying mines. In combat we were all buddies. Seeing a Col. carrying a Pfc's BAR didn't astonish most of the guys. Early the next morning we reached Elsenborn. The houses were silhouetted against the sky that was lit up from the burning villages that we left to the advancing Germans. We can thank our artillery for saving us that night. They threw everything but the kitchen stoves at the Jerries.

Our spirits rose when we saw the houses in Elsenborn. Just think -- houses with nice soft, dry, wooden floors. No snow, and walls to break the wind. "This would be great," we said to each other -- but was it? We marched, or should say struggled, down the main street of town. "Our houses must be on the other end of town," we thought, but we were still going and the houses had disappeared behind us. What now? We just couldn't go any farther and they said that we were going to Elsenborn. Just out of town, we turned and started across a field. When we reached the other side, they said, "OK men, this is it." We were stunned. We couldn't comprehend what was going on, but we were cold, our hands and feet were numb and swollen, so we didn't try. We just laid down, three or four of us in a bunch to help keep each other warm, and we went to sleep.

In the morning we got a hot meal. I wish that I could write the way we felt, but I can't. We had the same feeling that morning as we had the day we overran a German POW camp and liberated our American fliers. You get goosebumps all over you, and you try to say something, but you can't. Instead, you just stare and maybe say a little prayer and thank God that He has brought you safely through the unbelievable nightmare.

When we had finished eating, we read our mail that the mail clerk had brought up on the chow truck, and then we spread out and started digging in. It was a good thing we did, too, because we no sooner had a hole dug than some Jerry planes came over and bombed and strafed us. We stayed in the field another night while the Jerries threw in 88s at their leisure, and on the following day, Dec. 22nd, we moved to the outskirts of Elsenborn and dug in a defensive position around the town. We dug our OP's in on high ground covering an open field of about 1700 yards. Beyond that were woods and Jerries. On the first two days that we dug in, the weather was foggy and the observation was poor. But when the fog lifted and our movements were observed, the Jerries began to shell us whenever three of us bunched up.

When the weather cleared, our Air Force came out and gave the Jerries

a terrible pasting. It was the good weather and the continual bombing and strafing of the German supply lines that turned the Von R. dream into a nightmare. When the "Bulge" was stopped, the job of pounding it back into a pimple began. We were dug in on the northern vein of the "Bulge" and for the next month we remained stationary, while the units on our right pounded the Jerries back against defense.

As the days passed, we improved positions and before long, all the men had made their holes fairly comfortable. Usually the holes were long enough to lay down in and deep enough to sit up in. They were covered with boards or whatever else we could get together to make a roof out of. For Christmas, we had 88s for dessert. We were right in the middle of chow when they started coming in. Some of the fellows hit the snow and spilled their mess kits, with meals going into the snow.

On Jan. 12th (1945), we strung a double apron fence and put up some concertinas in front of our positions. That night it snowed a little, about a foot or so, and it drifted bad. In the morning, the barbed wire entanglements were out of sight and the concertinas were blown around like feathers in the breeze. It was necessary on many occasions for one of the fellows to dig his buddy out in the morning, because in some of the storms, the snow blew into your hole faster than you could shovel it out.



Discarded artillery shell casings litter a U.S. Artillery position on Elsenborn Ridge.

From our positions, we saw a few dogfights in the early morning when the Jerry air force dared to come out. Our ack-ack outfits did a bang-up job and quite a few Jerries came down to earth in flames. One morning, an FW 109 was hit and the pilot parachuted in front of our positions. He got out and started running for his own lines, but when we opened up on him with everything from machine guns to carbines, he quickly changed his mind and surrendered.

On Jan. 26th we left our comfortable quarters and, under cover of darkness, traveled about two miles to relieve the 60th Inf. of the 9th Div. We were still under enemy observation, but this time within rifle range of each other, and it was necessary to stay below the ground during the day.

On the night of Jan. 31st we were alerted, and at 0345 the next morning A Co. moved off into the attack. It was very difficult to see across the open space, covered and drifting with snow. Each man had on a snow cape and some even had their rifles covered with white rags. Reliefs from the different OP's would occasionally wear white capes when making changes during the day. Movement was generally made at dusk.

At 1500 on Feb. 3rd we entrucked and traveled to an assembly area near Rockerath. The woods along the roads were ruined from artillery, and the fences were lined with crosses of German dead. We were now going back through the places that had been hit the hardest during

WADING THROUGH MUD *(continued)*

the “Bulge,” and there was nothing left. Knocked-out German tanks, wrecked vehicles, dead cows and horses, and dead Jerries littered the roads. As the snow melted, there were bodies of Yanks revealed — men who had been killed and snowed under before they could be found.

At 0730 on Feb. 4th we started moving to Hollerath. We were now just before the Siegfried Line. We heard the mission for the day. Twelve pillboxes; six for C Co. and six for A Co. That’s all, just twelve pillboxes. We passed through the many tiger’s teeth and tank obstacles, and by 1715, we had taken our objectives. We spent the night in the pillboxes and at 0800 in the morning we started forward again. At 1700 we again had our objective for the day taken and that night, we dug in on a hill overlooking Hellenthal. We were under direct enemy observation again and couldn’t move from our foxholes in the daytime. We were relieved by the 3rd Battalion and we withdrew to the pillboxes in reserve and remained there until Feb. 11th. After 94 days on the line, we were relieved by the 69th Div.

On Feb. 12th we entrucked and drove to Meyerode, Belgium on the first part of our journey back for a rest. At 0915 on Feb. 20th the company moved out from Meyerode and walked 17 miles to Malmedy. Here we entrucked and rode to Chapelle Des Anges in Belgium. We moved in and before long, we were enjoying the hospitality of the Belgian people.

We left the rest area on Feb. 27th and proceeded to Stolberg, Germany. On the way to Stolberg, we saw Aachen and Duren and they were everything that the papers said about them — just one big pile of destruction. The next morning we rode to an assembly area at Alsdorf, and made preparations for the attack. We all dug in and tried to get as much rest as possible. At 2400 we started out for the forward assembly area near Bergheim, Germany crossing the Erft Canal at dawn. We took up positions in trenches awaiting further orders.

At the time we were in reserve, the 2nd Battalion was pinned down, and the 1st was committed and went out to relieve them. With Baker Company leading, our objective was to clear the woods and then take the town of Hol Fortuna. We passed through the 8th division, and the 3rd armored was deployed on the open terrain behind us. It took us two hours to relieve Fox Company and then on to relieve Easy Company.

Early the next morning, the attack again started and we sent up a platoon to aid in the capture of the town. At about 1200 a factory had to be taken and the two platoons were sent up to take it. As they completed their operation, they noticed the 3d Armored moving across the field on the next objective. It was really a sight to behold, and the armor was on its way to make a mad dash for Cologne and the Rhine.

On March 4th we moved to the town of Anstel and between two moves, we had cleaned up various towns that the armor had gone through. After intense delaying action by the Jerries in front of the town of Delrath, the 1st Battalion finally got to the banks of the Rhine on March 7th.

We remained in this town the next two days and had a chance to get cleaned up and work on our equipment. At various times we would send a platoon out to clear a town that had been overlooked. Then on March 8th we received orders to move, not knowing where, only hoping that it would be a chance to cross the Rhine at Remagen, where a bridge had been established. On the tenth we arrived at Fritzdorf and awaited further orders. They came early the next morning and we started to walk south and east.

At about 1400 we saw the bridge. Shells were coming in fast and aircraft were strafing continually. As we approached, we received orders to run across, and after a twelve mile hike with full equipment, we knew this was the supreme test. Finally, we reached our destination of Ohlenberg

—our division was the first full division to get across the Rhine.

On the twelfth of March, B Co. set up a second line of defense behind the 9th Division about 1200 yards out of Ohlenberg. Here we had the flak buzzing around us, in addition to a few bombs dropping around Ohlenberg. Several patrols were then sent to the Wied River from this point, to find a place to cross the river. No such positions could be found, so we waited until a more suitable crossing could be found.

On the 22nd of March we were relieved by the 99th Recon and we moved behind the 2nd Battalion, waiting for them to cross the Wied and follow them up until they hit opposition. Crossing the river early in the morning, the battalion set up roadblocks outside of Rossbach.

On the twenty-fourth we moved from Rossbach to the town of Hochscheid, which was to be a forward assembly area. As the 3rd Battalion finished its objectives, our battalion was given Wallroth to capture. This was an important town as it would cut the superhighway and enable our armor to cut loose. By the next night we had the town, and the armor was well on its way. It was one of those things where one goes to sleep and then wakes up finding himself fifty miles behind the line.

On the night of March 26th we moved to Seishahn and from there we reached out to capture the towns of Roden, Wallinerd, Millsberg, and finally to Wissmar, a town of large size and one that had not been devastated by war. The woods were patrolled, and near the woods a few POWs were flushed out.

The next morning we moved to Heimbach, a point in the drive, and set up outpost and waited for the armor to resupply and break loose again. Then our orders were abruptly changed, and we were shifted to the famed Ruhr Pocket, where the Jerries were not giving up and had plenty of artillery and men, as we soon found out.

Our first objective was the town of Kurlshutte, a factory and several hills. This was the first place that we had very much flak used against us, and it seemed like regular machine-gun fire, until it started to burst. On the succeeding days we captured Kickenback, Allenhunder, Megen and Trichenbech, all against negligible opposition. Then we found ourselves following the 7th Armored again all the way to Kuntrop. Here we shoved off again and ran into opposition outside Imhert, where the pocket gave up. The prisoner toll was immense.

On the 18th of April we received orders to move to the Third Army along with the rest of the Third Corps. We went by truck some three hundred miles. Arriving at Pruppbach, we took a couple days off for care and cleaning and resting. We also received some training for river crossing, which was planned for the Danube in a few days.

This time we found ourselves following the 14th Armored until we hit rivers and canals. Many towns were captured, and by this time every man had a pistol and was a fighting fool. Finally, we hit the Danube at Marching and we were waiting until the 2nd Battalion made a crossing, which unfortunately was not made. We finally crossed where the 393rd had crossed, so we went down there and fought our way back to Setting and Neustadt.

The town of Biebenstetter was taken after a fight with use of tanks. Waking up in the morning, we found ourselves again several miles behind the armor, which had broken loose. We did not catch the armor until we entered Mossburg and found the River Isar to cross. It was a great experience to talk to the liberated prisoners at Mossburg, some from our outfit. The battalion crossed the Isar on April 30th.

On the third of May we moved to Langenvils awaiting further orders — which we knew could not be much, for everyone knew the war was almost over. Then on the 9th of May the news came. I don’t think many of the fellows celebrated — rather, we gave thanks for being alive and were hoping that this war will be the last one.

CARETAKERS OF OUR FALLEN OVERSEAS

We greatly appreciate all the European citizens who volunteer to take care of our soldiers' resting places away from home. These 2 BOBA Members from Belgium sent us Memorial Day photos honoring "their" soldiers.



Bruno Pollet (above), is caretaker of the grave of fallen American soldier **Francis L. Allen** (right photo), 504 PRCH INF, 82 ABN DIV, from Tennessee, and adorns his grave with flowers and American flags every Memorial Day.



Frederik Vranken (above) at the Ardennes American Cemetery by the grave of **Russell A. Smith**; at left is the crowd there on Memorial Day. He has also adopted the graves of **Cleo O. Beaty** (also at Ardennes American Cemetery); and **Vernon D. Rapp** and **Bernard A. Shea** at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. (See photos below.)



Vernon D. Rapp, 104 INFD



Cleo O. Beaty (far left), 428th Fighter Sqd, in training.



Cleo Beaty & wife Virginia



Russell A. Smith, 8 INFD

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Invites You to Join Your Friends for the “EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION” OF THE 74th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE December 15, 16, and 17, 2018 Metropolitan Washington, DC

We have been invited to a co-hosted reception by the Belgian Ambassador Dirk Wouters and Mrs. Katrin Wouters and the Luxembourg Ambassador Ms. Sylvie Lucas, at the Belgian Ambassador's residence, 2300 Foxhall Road, NW, Washington, DC, on Monday, December 17, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA 22202 has been selected again for this event. We secured a special Battle of the Bulge rate of \$99/night (**plus** room taxes). Discounted self-parking rate is \$12 a night. **Please make your reservations early to secure a room, especially if you want a handicap accessible room. To make a Reservation: call 800-Hiltons (800-445-8667) or 703-416-4100 by November 28, 2018.** Must mention **Battle of the Bulge** to obtain the special rate. Check-in time is 4:00 PM. Any guest checking in after 12 noon will be able to do so for no additional charge, based on the availability of rooms.

This year, we will offer a **VIP tour/presentation at the Library of Congress**, located on Capitol Hill. We will learn about the Veterans History Project, a valuable and exciting project which collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Library of Congress is handicapped accessible. You will need to pass through security.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

- 2:00-7:00 PM **Registration - Lincoln Hall Foyer/Ballroom** – Pick up Registration Packets with name badges, banquet/bus tickets, latest updates. Sign Attendance Books.
- 2:00-11:30 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, Books, scrapbooks, memorabilia, snacks & beverages open every day.
- 3:30-4:30 PM Our traditional **Tree Trimming** “Salute to Bulge Veterans.” If you are a Bulge Veteran and have not submitted a picture of yourself to add to the tree, contact Tracey Diehl: 703-528-4058 or tracey@battleofthebulge.org (Family members representing their deceased veteran are also welcome to submit veteran's photo, if have not already.)
- Evening Socialize in Hospitality Room (Snacks available). Dinner on your own – consider the hotel's revolving Skydome Restaurant, or another of many dining venues in the neighborhood.

Note: Anyone participating in “Wreaths Across America” (see their website) at Arlington Cemetery today would do so on their own. Consider booking your room 1 night early (12/14) at BOBA discount rate.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

- 9:00 AM-12:30 PM Depart promptly 9 AM for wreath layings at **World War II Memorial, VBOB Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery**
- 12:30 PM Depart for DoubleTree Hotel to rest or visit in the Hospitality Room or sightsee in the area
- 6:00 PM Hospitality room closes
- 6:00-10 PM **Banquet at DoubleTree Hotel in Washington Ballroom**
- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. Seated for Dinner at 6:45 PM
- 7:00 PM Color Guard & Honors
- 7:15 PM Dinner served: Salmon or Chicken Piccata (Indicate choice on registration form)
- Program: Greetings from Dignitaries, Speaker, Person of the Year Award
- 10:00-11:30 PM Hospitality Room re-opens after the banquet

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

- 9:00 AM-11:00 PM Hospitality Room open
- 9:00 AM Depart promptly for the Library of Congress (security screening)
- 9:30-11:30 AM Presentation/tour. Learn about remarkable Veterans History Project
- 11:30-11:45 AM Bus pick-up
- 12:30 PM *Option: Drop off at Pentagon City Mall (Fashion Centre) where you can have lunch on your own (many choices) and finish your holiday shopping. Return on your own to hotel via Hotel shuttle or a 3-block walk.*
- 12:45 PM Return to DoubleTree Hotel
- 5:00 PM Depart promptly for Belgian and Luxembourg Ambassadors' Reception (6-8 PM)

NOTES:

- Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every 15 minutes (6 AM-11 PM), 1.5 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport.
- Free shuttle from the Hotel every half hour to the METRO: Pentagon City (Blue/Yellow Line) and to Pentagon City Mall.
- Early departure: If your reservation plans change, please advise hotel at or before check-in of any change in your reserved planned length of stay to avoid an early departure fee (currently \$75.00) for checking out before your agreed upon reserved length. Any special circumstances of Early Departure Waivers will be on a case-by-case basis and depending on the severity of the situation.

RESERVATION FORM

“REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION”

OF THE 74th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

December 15, 16, and 17, 2018 Metropolitan Washington, DC

Return form and check by **November 28, 2018** to:
Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.
 PO Box 27430
 Philadelphia PA 19118-0430

Questions:
 Madeleine Bryant, Chair or Tracey Diehl
madeleine@battleofthebulge.org or tracey@battleofthebulge.org
 703-528-4058

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name of Spouse/Guests: _____; _____; _____;

Battle of Bulge Unit you (or family member) served with: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Vets: do you have a WWII picture to send us? (If you haven't sent it before.)

RESERVATIONS

	Number Attending	Cost/Person	Total
Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, Toasts, etc.	_____	X \$45.00	\$ _____

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

3:30 PM	Tree Trimming Lincoln Hall, North Tower	_____	X FREE
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018:

9:00 AM	Bus Departs for Wreath Laying Ceremonies at _____ WWII Memorial, VBOB Memorial, Tomb of the Unknowns	_____	X \$25.00
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6:00 PM-10:00 PM Commemorative Banquet: DoubleTree Hotel Washington Ballroom

Please make your Main Course selection(s):

■ <i>Grilled Salmon (Names)</i> _____		X \$65.00	\$ _____
■ <i>Chicken Piccata (Names)</i> _____		X \$47.00	\$ _____
■ <i>Diabetic Meal with Salmon (Names)</i> _____		X \$65.00	\$ _____
■ <i>Diabetic Meal with Chicken (Names)</i> _____		X \$47.00	\$ _____
■ <i>Vegetarian Meal (Names)</i> _____		X \$56.00	\$ _____

Seating is open except for Head Tables. Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table. Tables are rounds of 8.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018:

9:00 AM	Bus Departs for Library of Congress Tour _____ (includes drop off at Pentagon City Mall on return to hotel, if desired)	_____	X \$25.00
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5:00 PM	Bus Departs for home of Belgian Ambassador _____	_____	X \$25.00
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(Enclose check made out to Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc.)

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

NOTE: You may opt to register online at: battleofthebulge.org, click on “December Bulge Commemoration, DC”.

Permission granted for Hotel to notify Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. that room reservation has been made.

Signature: _____ **DATE** _____

NOTES & REMINDERS:

- Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie optional (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform
- Room reservations must be made for the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, no later than November 28, 2018. Telephone 800-Hiltons (800-445-8667). Mention “Battle of the Bulge.”
- Return completed Reservation Form for events to Battle of the Bulge Association no later than November 28, 2018.
- No cancellation refunds after November 28, 2018. Hotel Reservations based on Availability. Please do not delay.
- Please indicate in all places the number & names attending so that we can be advised of the proper number to plan for. Thanks!
- Good idea to have a picture ID (Driver's License or Military ID), even if not specifically required.

A GUNNER'S STORY

This is a selected excerpt about US Army soldier Charlie Sanderson from My Father's War: Memories from Our Honored WWII Soldiers, a book of first-hand narratives and photos chronicled by BOBA Member Charley Valera.



**Charlie Sanderson,
78th INF, 552 FABN,
AAA AW BN**

Unlike most soldiers who finished their training and were selected to be shipped overseas, [Charlie] Sanderson was rushed over as a replacement and completed his basic training in Salisbury Plains, England, near the white cliffs of Dover—not a pleasant or safe place to be in early 1944.

Sanderson was now official property of the US First Army, 552nd Field Artillery Battalion, 78th Infantry Division, AAA Automatic Weapons Battalion under Major General Edwin P. Parker. Sanderson soon found himself landing on Omaha Beach and would eventually end up in the Ardennes Forest.

Moving forward into Normandy and other parts of France, the troops fired on the towns of Saint-Lô and Sainte-Mère-

Église. “Return fire was nonstop. Everything was coming at us.

One time, I looked up over the hill and saw all the tanks lined up,” Sanderson said. “I thought they were American tanks. They were Germans and they started firing at us. We were laying out a position and didn’t know we had gone too far.” The land between the two fighting sides is known as no-man’s-land. Sanderson’s troop had gone too far into German-occupied territory; they had to get out of there in a hurry.

Again, Sanderson was part of the 552nd Field Artillery Battalion. They had three gun batteries: A, B, and C Battery. Their weapon was the enormous, American-made 240 mm Howitzer Cannon that would shoot a 365-pound projectile within a twenty-mile range, using eighty-five pounds of gunpowder per shot. This big weapon of war could also be moved around as needed to advance.

Once a position was established and laid out, Sanderson began to empty his truck for action. He took a big canvas and put it down exactly where the massive Howitzer gun was to be located. The canvas had holes in it with metal grommets, and it took three men to lay it out. Assigned to a twenty-one-man crew, Sanderson was up front first. They’d put the large steel spades attached to the sides of the gun into the ground for support, but needed large enough holes to accommodate the recoil based on the gun’s nose’s aim. When the other part of his crew showed up, all they had to do was start digging. After that, they placed “a thousand sandbags around it,” Sanderson said. “Sometimes you had soft or sandy soil to work with.”

They used prime movers to move the Howitzers around—not a tank. A prime mover is a specialized heavy-duty gun tractor used to tow artillery pieces of various weight and sizes. They took two prime movers and put them at 45 degrees on either side of the Howitzer, cabling the gun to them for further stability.

Each man had his own job. A gunner would sit on a metal seat on one side of the gun and did quadrant lateral settings. Another sat on the other side, configuring the elevation settings. The two spun the big steering wheels for accuracy. When ready, the gunner got on a phone with the commander and yelled, “Set,” then “Ready” and the commander on the other end of the line would tell them when to fire. To work just the gun, “There would be two men on the gun; seven on ram-staff and four to bring the projectile out.”

With seven men on the ram-staff, a twelve-foot manual push rod got the projectile into the gun. “They’d yell, ‘One, two, three ... ram!’ and slam the 365-pound bullet into the barrel of the Howitzer. It all went as fast as you could go ... to have a round in the air every minute.”

There was a sergeant in charge of maintenance for all this equipment. The prime movers were all covered in camouflage to hide from reconnaissance planes. “The noise was tough,” explained Sanderson. “You were supposed to stand on your toes, open your mouth, and block your ears. How you gonna do that when you had to measure the recoil on the gun? The gun would recoil sixty-five inches,” he remembered. “The hotter the gun got from firing, the farther back the gun would recoil.”

“We needed cooks, truck drivers, mechanics, and others soldiers’ efforts of the unit to make it all work. Some of the others would be guarding the trucks and facilities during the shooting. You had guard duty, two “on and four off, and sometimes we’d agree to four on and two off to give more people a break or [to] sleep more at night. But you had to be close to your gun. Your pup tent was very close by the gun. When they called a fire mission, you had to be quickly available. Or, if there was a fire mission and you were sleeping ... well, at least trying to sleep during all of that.”

Further inquiry about his crew continued. “The sergeant is like the head mechanic; he knows what’s to happen and when to move on. Everything is camouflaged and ready to go when needed. They all carried the carbine rifles with a sling over their shoulders.” He shook his head. “Nobody could believe what it was like.”

In front of the guns was a six-foot pile of loose grass or dirt caused by a vacuum from the firing. “One time, “on and four off, and sometimes we’d agree to four on and two off to give more people a break or [to] sleep more at night. But you had to be close to your gun. Your pup tent was very close by the gun. When they called a fire mission, you had to be quickly available. Or, if there was a fire mission and you were sleeping ... well, at least trying to sleep during all of that.”

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VETERAN MEMBER VIDEO INTERVIEWS

Watch our veterans' videos on our website at:
www.battleofthebulge.org, then click on “Video”

by a vacuum from the firing. “One time,” Sanderson recalled with a smile, “there was a half dozen sheep close by. We fired over them and there was a whole pile of loose wool in front of the gun. It didn’t pull it out of them, but loose wool from their bodies was in with the grass. It was kind of funny.”

The food was mostly K rations. The only time their cook was able to provide decent meals was when they got into a quiet zone where they could kind of lie back, with not much going on. They sometimes took the big kettles, which looked like metal garbage cans, and set four of them out. They then took extra gunpowder bags and threw them onto a fire—which got the water boiling in just a couple of minutes. They threw C rations into the water so they could have hot food. But most of the time, it was K rations. The benefits of K rations were for quick eating meals and maximum energy while C rations were more for sustained daily food intake.

K rations were individual portions of canned combat food and provided breakfast, lunch, and supper. According to Wikipedia, a day’s menu consisted of the following:

Breakfast Unit: canned entree (chopped ham and eggs, veal loaf), biscuits, a dried fruit bar or cereal bar, Halazone water purification tablets, a four-pack of cigarettes, chewing gum, instant coffee, and sugar (granulated, cubed, or compressed).

Dinner Unit: canned entree (processed cheese, ham, or ham and cheese), biscuits, fifteen malted-milk tablets (in early versions) or five caramels (in later versions), sugar (granulated, cubed, or compressed), a salt packet, a four-pack of cigarettes and a box of matches, chewing gum.

Sanderson shared some of his memories of the Battle of the Bulge: “During the Battle of the Bulge, the Germans spearheaded around us. We were in the middle, and they had us surrounded. The lieutenant told us, ‘We’re going to fight until the last man. The first man to turn around, I’ll shoot him in the back.’ That’s what the lieutenant told us. Blood and Guts, General Patton, came in with his tanks. When he came by, you could see those tanks rolling around. He saved our ass, you know. We were surrounded.” When asked if he’d ever met General Patton, Sanderson responded with a smile. “I drove past him once. I knew who he was, but he didn’t know who I was.”

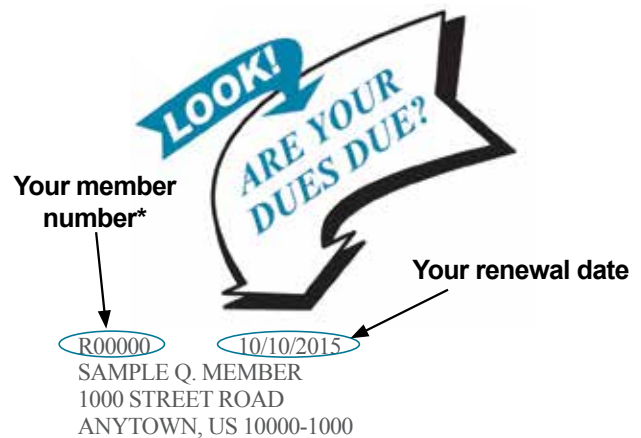
From a distant memory, Sanderson remembered another interesting story, detailing what the Ardennes Forest looked like. “Did you ever see land when a tornado’s come through? Did you ever see trees and stuff, twisted and broken off? The whole friggin’ forest was like that. I drove down a road and there were horses hooked to cannons—German horse-drawn artillery. Our men came down through and strafed them. We just had to push them off the road so we could get through.



Sanderson’s 240 MM Howitzer, covered in mud, as usual.

WHEN ARE MY DUES DUE?

Look at the back cover address label:



***PLEASE NOTE: If your member number starts with the letter “L”, you are a LIFE MEMBER, and therefore do not owe any more dues, ever!**

Imagine that—using horse-drawn artillery in World War II. Everything the Germans had, they used. That was the Ardennes Forest.” Sanderson was stunned to see the once-mighty Third Reich reduced to using horse-drawn artillery.

“They called them battles, but to me it was a battle all the way through.”

Sanderson got plenty of special detail. They took him and his assistant driver to a huge field at night so they could run a wire for their phones. “A jeep would drive the wire across the field. They’d say, ‘Here, this is your position.’ It was right next to a row of turnips. The Germans planted huge rows of them. A row of turnips covered in brush used to feed their animals and troops. We were out there to report if they [the German troops] came in by parachute. We were sitting ducks out there in the middle of the friggin’ field. All by ourselves, you know. These kind of details, you don’t mind when you’re back with your men. But when you’re all by yourself, those kinds of detail kind of get scary.” Sanderson added, “They’d come by and drop those personnel bombs. They’d drop them all over the place and they’d go pop, pop, pop all over the friggin’ place like popcorn. They also dropped flares so they could see. They’d see us sitting ducks next to the pile of turnips camouflaged like it was something else. I was probably nineteen years old.”

“When you can’t see it, you get scared. You don’t know where it’s coming from. Anyone who said they weren’t scared is a damn liar.”

The war had been over for more than seventy years when Charlie and I spoke about his life. The memory of his war efforts is etched in his mind as though they had happened yesterday—just like the others I’ve interviewed, they all seem to remember the war in great details. There was lots of smoke, fire, guns going off, aircraft strafing; it was war, with people being killed on a regular basis.

Charley Valera is the author of My Father’s War: Memories from Our Honored WWII Soldiers, which includes photos and personal stories of a dozen more veterans from every branch and both theaters of WWII. Copies are available at Amazon.com and BN.com. Signed copies of the book are available only at www.charleyvalera.com. You can view many of the actual interviews on YouTube at <https://goo.gl/4Q1919>.

HONORING MY HERO—MY DAD!

by Gail Larke, Member



Charles Harman, 5th ARMDD, 19th FABN; in front of the VFW hall in Davison, Michigan (below.)



My childhood memories were many. His work never prevented him from playing with his kids, even though he usually worked a 12-hour day. In the winter, he would take my brother and I sledding, and in the summer he took us swimming at a lake nearby. And whatever we did, he did, too. He played chase, kick the can, or hide and seek with us. He never seemed to run out of energy. My hero had vitality.

When life took a turn and I became a single parent, my parents spent their retirement years babysitting mine and my brother's kids, and taking care of my dad's mother, my mother's mother, and an elderly widowed uncle who had no children. He and my mom sacrificed their retirement years to be a "dad-in-the-gap," as my daughter called him. He and my mom came over every morning to get my daughters off to school. He was never late, and usually early. He never missed a recital, school performance, or appointment. And if there were three performances of

My dad was Sgt. Charles A. Harman from Davison, Michigan. He served in the 5th Armored Division, 19th Field Artillery Battalion and was a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge.

Every little girl grows up thinking that her daddy is a hero and I was no different. But what makes a hero in a daughter's eyes?

As a little girl, my dad would throw me up in the air and I would somehow land on his shoulders. There I would be riding high, looking at the world through a taller set of eyes. He seemed to be the strongest man in the world to me. My hero was strong.

the same thing, he and my mom went to every single one! My hero was involved and dependable.

He took care of things before I knew there was a need. His hobby was to check my sump pump, my gas gauge, my oil dipstick, and tire pressure. He seemed to just know I needed a helping hand. And all he needed were a pair of pliers and duct tape. From plumbing to car repairs, he always knew how to fix whatever needed fixing. And his services were free! My hero was helpful and knowledgeable.

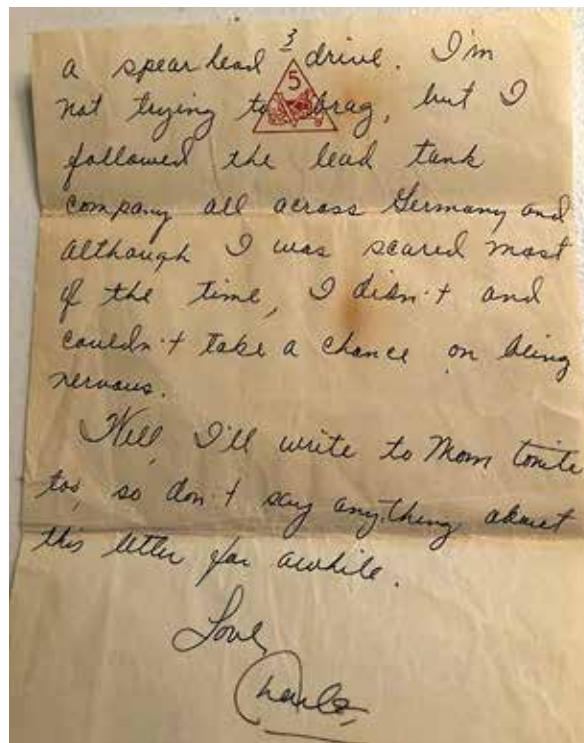
I grew up in the 50s, only 10 years after WWII ended, but I don't remember my dad talking about the war until 2007, after my mom discovered a box of his 200+ handwritten letters to my grandmother. She had saved them all these years later. The letters told the story of a young soldier who left home to serve his country from 1942 until 1945, with no thought about his safety or well being. When we discovered those letters, we realized the treasure we had found. Many were written during the Battle of the Bulge. Even our local news came and did a segment on them, and my dad finally began to talk about his years in the war. My hero was a now a celebrity!

My dad came to live with us in December 2009 after my mother passed away. Their marriage lasted 63 years. He spent his remaining eight years with us until he finally passed on January 27, 2018. Dad fit in with our family, and enjoyed his remaining years with us. He stayed busy bowling, talking to neighbors, and faithful in church. We took him on family vacations several times. He loved his favorite TV shows and movies. His health stayed pretty amazing for someone his age; he ambulated solely with a cane. At 95, he took a fall which kept him from bowling, so he was finally felt his age! My hero was getting old.

During his time in our home, I had the remarkable privilege of accompanying him and 50 other WWII veterans on an Honor Flight to Baltimore/Washington DC. We visited the WWII Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, an experience I will always hold dear. I can't put into words the feeling of pride and emotion as I pushed my dad, alongside 50+ elderly WWII Veterans, in wheelchairs down an airport corridor, and then stood as they were hailed and saluted for their service. One young boy threw his arms around my dad's neck just to thank him. These veterans were finally being given the recognition they deserved for so long.

That trip was a gift: It was a gift to these veterans of course, but it was a gift to me because it helped me appreciate the life-changing sacrifices our WWII veterans made to serve our country. None of them served for recognition or applause. They all just did what they were expected to do — all heroes of our day.

My dad fulfilled everything he was asked to do, and yet did so much more. His life was meant for service — to his God, his family, and his country. And that is why my dad will always be a hero to me.



Gail's family has 282 letters written by her dad between March 1942-September 1945. This letter, dated July 4, 1945, tells of his preparation for going from Germany to Japan.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR VETERANS! Buy 1, Get 2nd Copy Free! 2 for \$15

THE VBOB CERTIFICATE: Have you ordered yours?



The Battle of the Bulge Association, Inc. is proud to offer this full color 11" by 17" certificate, as a legacy item for any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes campaign. It attests that the veteran participated, endured and survived the largest land battle ever fought by the US Army. (There is also a version worded for those who were killed in action or died of their wounds. Be sure to check the appropriate box on the form.) If you haven't ordered yours, then you might want to consider ordering one to give to your grandchildren. They are generally most appreciative of your service, and the certificate makes an excellent gift—also for that buddy with whom you served in the Bulge. You do not have to be a member of BOBA to order one, but the veteran must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color World War II insignias of the major units that

fought in the Battle of the Bulge, starting with the 12th Army group, then followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wish that each unit insignia could have been shown, but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge, it is impossible. However, any unit that served in the Bulge would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of the veteran's original patches to the certificate when you receive it. **Please allow approximately 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.** The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing box. **Please be sure that you write the name, service number and unit as you would like it to appear on the certificate.** The unit name should be as complete as possible, because you want someone reading it to understand what unit the veteran was in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information and the unit must be one of the 2,000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit that is in the Official General Order No. 114 for units entitled to the Ardennes Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of the certificate. **The cost of the 2 certificates is \$15 postpaid.**

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Certificate Order Blank

I request an 11" by 17" certificate and certify the veteran named below received credit for the Ardennes campaign.

I have enclosed a check for \$15 for the certificate. Please include the following information on the certificate:

**SPECIAL
OFFER:
2 for \$15!**

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Serial Number _____ Rank _____ Unit _____

Organization _____

(usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment and/or Division) **Please check one if applies:** ☐ Killed in Action ☐ Died of Wounds

Signature _____ Date _____

Mailing Information: (SPECIAL PRICE SHIPS TO 1 MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail address _____

BOBA member: ☐ yes ☐ no (membership not a requirement)

Make checks payable to BOBA, Inc. for \$15.

**Orders should be mailed to: BOBA, Inc., PO Box 27430, Philadelphia, PA 19118-0430 Questions? Call 703-528-4058
OR ORDER ONLINE: WWW.BATTLEOFTHEBULGE.ORG [NO PHONE ORDERS]**

THE IMPACT OF INTELLIGENCE ON THE BULGE

The article below is an excerpt from “From Axis Surprises to Allied Victories: The Impact of Intelligence in World War II”, By Peter C. Oleson. It appeared in the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO)’s “The Intelligencer” Winter 2016-17 issue. Reprinted with permission of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers.



Peter C. Oleson

As governments declassify old files and scholars examine the details of World War II, it is apparent that intelligence had an important impact on many battles and the length and cost of this catastrophic conflict. As Nigel West noted, “[c]hanges in American, British, and even Soviet official attitudes to declassification in the 1980s allowed thousands of secret documents to be made available for public examination, and the result was extensive revisionism of the conventional histories of the conflict.” More so than any time in history, intelligence played a central role in World War II. Historians F. H. Hinsley and David Kahn have suggested that the Allies’ success at breaking the German codes shortened the war in Europe by years and helped turn the tide in the Pacific. The Allies did not enter World War II with good intelligence; rather, initial Allied losses and failures were often the result of poor or unconvincing intelligence or no intelligence at all. A war that started with Axis military successes in its early phases (1939 – 1942), based partially on their intelligence preparations, was brought to a conclusion aided by Allied intelligence successes (1942 – 1945).

Battle of the Bulge: On December 16, 1944, under heavy overcast, the Wehrmacht launched a massive counterattack against the thinly held Allied line in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg. Preoccupied by its own offensive against the Siegfried Line, the Allies were caught by surprise. Ignored intelligence indicators and mistaken judgments, coupled with good German security, contributed to the Allied surprise.

Decrypted Japanese diplomatic messages from Berlin forewarned of a planned German offensive as early as late August. By the end of September, British intelligence was aware of a major German mobilization of up to 60 divisions. SIGINT [Britain’s signals intelligence] revealed plans for a major Luftwaffe deployment to the west of close support aircraft. POW interrogations and civilian eyewitness reports indicated a forthcoming offensive. In October, the Abwehr and SD changed cipher procedures; their messages were not recovered until December, too late for any warning. Also, the Germans practiced strict radio discipline in early December, often an indicator of a coming offensive. But British assessments underestimated German strengths and plans and did not imagine the risks Hitler would take. Recent revelations suggest that Hitler was a heavy user of drugs, including methamphetamines that give a feeling of euphoria but are mentally destructive. How this may have affected his risk-taking in the Battle of the Bulge is open to speculation. Evidence of this is contained in a US military intelligence dossier, but the source(s) of the intelligence are not public. Furthermore, Allied euphoria at the

collapsing German Army reinforced old habits of ignoring intelligence.

By December 19, SIGINT revealed to the Allies that the Wehrmacht was headed for the Meuse River and the port of Antwerp. Allied ground and air counterattacks and German supply difficulties finally stalled the offensive. The battle, the biggest and bloodiest battle fought by the US during the war, lasted until the end of January 1945; 19,000 GIs were killed and 70,000 wounded. SIGINT was not decisive in the Battle of the Bulge, but did give the Allies an advantage. Allied attempts at deception, however, were, “defeated by the [Allied Military Police] radio net, which ... handed the true information to the Germans ‘on a silver platter.’” German tactical SIGINT was good.

The results of Hitler’s Ardennes offensive were even worse than his generals had feared. Although it had delayed Eisenhower’s planned drive into Germany by about six weeks, it had resulted in well over 100,000 German casualties, over 600 ruined armored vehicles, and a loss of over 1,000 aircraft. German resources had been largely wasted, and that meant that when the Russians and the Western Allies renewed their attacks, both would be able to advance more rapidly. The tying-up of the German reserves in the Ardennes offensive proved a godsend for the Red Army, which opened its winter offensive on the Eastern Front on January 12, 1945, eventually enabling it to reach its principal objective, Berlin, before the Western Allies.

In the final months of the war, OSS recruited “volunteer” agents from Axis POWs and inserted more than into Germany. “[T]he data they collected on industrial and military targets significantly aided the final Allied air and ground assaults on Germany.” In the spring of 1945, high-ranking German officials began to explore secret peace arrangements. OSS Switzerland chief Allen Dulles brokered the surrender of German forces in Italy in April, saving many lives.

In the final weeks of the war, “[t]he Allies had obtained good tactical intelligence during these advances from [photoreconnaissance], POW, and especially from Y [operational tactical SIGINT], the enemy’s VHF links supplying a steady flow of information in plain language.” By late April, the speed of the Allied advance and overwhelming superiority made operational intelligence largely superfluous. Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945.

Post-Conflict Linger Concerns.

As the war drew to a close, two topics of great interest prompted formation of separate intelligence task forces. One was ALSOS, the other was TICOM.

The ALSOS (Greek for “grove”) mission focused on capturing German scientific and technical knowledge, especially information on German R&D on atomic weapons and biological research. Its ostensible medical mission was to camouflage and divert attention from the primary objective of atomic intelligence.

The technological superiority of German tanks, jet aircraft, and rockets had caused the Allies great concern. The Target Intelligence Committee (TICOM) mission also included capturing German cryptographic information and equipment. One revelation was the discovery of a hitherto unknown Nazi Party SIGINT unit separate from all others under the control of Hermann Göring. Another was a German machine for breaking Soviet codes.

Peter C. Oleson is the editor of AFIO’s Guide to the Study of Intelligence, a former member of the AFIO board, and chairman of its academic outreach.

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